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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS: The United States Government recognizes the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

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Arms Control & Disarmament

Open Skies Conference 'Rapprochement' in Positions

LD1309175891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1135 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Excerpts] Vienna, 13 Sep (TASS)—A rapprochement in the positions on many issues was clear at the third round of the international "Open Skies" conference—taking place in the Austrian capital—where a technical break was announced today. The task of this forum is to draw up an agreement on the mutual flights of unarmed aircraft with the aim of monitoring the military activities of states and increasing openness in relations between them. [passage omitted]

Yevgeniy Golovko, the head of the Soviet delegation, told the TASS correspondent that the USSR is insisting that the "Open Skies" plan include military bases of its participants situated in countries that are not participating in this regime. First and foremost this relates to U.S. bases in Japan, South Korea, and the Phillipines. In this case the USSR will be prepared to open up flights over all Soviet territory except for limitations to guarantee flight safety. Understanding the difficulties that may arise here with agreements with third countries, he continued, we are prepared to withdraw this issue but on the condition that we are reserving the right to close some regions of Soviet territory on the grounds of national security. At the same time it is intended that the number of these regions will be reduced to a minimum. Second, the transfer of military hardware beyond the Urals will not be a reason for closing these regions, the Soviet diplomat concluded.

It is noted in the corridors of the conference that in case this approach is accepted the whole idea of "Open Skies" loses its meaning. The overwhelming majority of the participants including neutral and nonaligned states think that without a principled solution of this question it is not worth starting to work out an agreement. Therefore, a technical break was announced. It is planned that the conference will continue its work on 30 September.

Open Skies To Aid CFE Verification

LD1509014291 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1510 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] A third round has now begun in Vienna of the international Open Skies conference. It involves 22 nations of Eastern Europe and NATO, as well as delegations of Europe's nonaligned countries. The three Baltic republics, that is Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, will for the first time attend it as observers. More on this from our military analyst Vadim Solovyev.

[Solovyev in Russian fading to English translation] The conference is designed to set conditions for unimpeded aerial flights over each other's territories to monitor military activity. This will be in line with the spirit of disarmament processes and glasnost in the military area. If implemented, the Open Skies would provide further guarantees for European security laid down in a range of international agreements of recent time, including the Paris agreement on the conventional armed forces cut in Europe and the superpower treaty on the reduction of strategic weapons.

Although nobody doubts the importance of the open skies, it isn't easy to implement in practice. The process was started in Canada last February with negotiators outlining views on how to make the skies open. The sides met again three months later in Budapest to compare each other's positions and the extent to which they meet the goals of European security.

There are four main issues on the agenda of the Vienna conference. The first one, the number of flights to be allowed over each other's country's territory, was sorted out at the previous round after the Soviet Union had agreed to America's proposal [words indistinct]. The second one relates to the size of territory to come under aerial inspection. The dispute is caused by suspicions that inspection may turn into routine spying, which sparked off differences over a third issue on what kind of equipment can be used for aerial inspection. At the previous round in Budapest the Soviet Union had conceded to its Western partners by agreeing to use devices for inspection at night and adverse weather conditions, as well as lateral view radars and optical equipment capable of discerning objects as small as 30 cm in size.

And finally, the issue of information exchange following the inspection. The Soviet proposal for a uniform database which can be open to all signatories has been strongly opposed by a number of countries, including the USA. Nonetheless, the open skies idea can be endorsed in spite of the existing difficulties. What is needed is goodwill by all sides concerned.

Risk to Arms Treaties' Continuity Assessed

PM1209100491 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Sep 91 Union Edition p 5

[Candidate of Juridical Sciences B. Tuzmukhamedov article: "The Future of the Union and Disarmament Treaties"]

[Text] The loyalty to the USSR's international commitments enshrined in Point 5 of the resolution of the extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies is encouraging, but needs weighty arguments to back it up. The references to the law which constantly emanate from our as yet unbuilt rule-of-law state do not constitute such arguments.

In jurisprudence there exists the institution of succession [pravopreyemstvo] (as distinct from the "continuity" ["pravopreyemtsvennost"] mentioned in Point 4 of that same document), that is, the transfer of rights and duties from one entity to another. The specific sphere of international law contains a whole range of norms regulating succession in the event of division, secession, unification, and so forth, when the former state (predecessor) is replaced on the map sometimes by several new states (successors), and moreover the original entity may not itself disappear. There is no need to point out that this means resolving—often far from painlessly—a great many problems: border and territorial problems, economic problems, property problems, humanitarian problems, ecological problems—the list could be continued. Some experience in settling these problems exists. Is that experience appropriate, and will it be used sensibly, to regulate the process of succession in the conditions of such a vast and paradoxical formation as the Soviet Union?

I will not venture to talk about all aspects of the transfer of international rights and duties from the USSR to its successors. I would like to share my concern about the fate of the Soviet Union's treaty commitments under arms limitation and reduction agreements, both those already in force and those that have been signed but have not yet come into force.

Take the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which for more than 20 years has been fairly successful in helping to prevent the growth of the "nuclear club." I am convinced of the sincerity of statements by the leaders of a number of republics on their intention to declare their territories to be nuclear-free zones; the tragedy of Chernobyl and Semipalatinsk lies behind these statements. True, it is disturbing that Russia is still a nuclear stockpile, and in the worst case, which has not yet been ruled out, a nuclear target. But, first, these declarations need to be given proper legal form, including, obviously, guarantees from the nuclear neighbor, and, second, they require time and considerable expenditure to put them into practice.

However, intentions alone are not enough for the law, and in the period between the declaration and its implementation—the completion of the removal of nuclear weapons from the territory of a state that rejects them—grounds may arise for raising the question of the violation of basic commitments under the said treaty. It transpires that until the removal of the warheads, that same Ukraine whose status, from the treaty's point of view, is different from when it was part of a unitary union, will exercise indirect control over nuclear weapons. Concern is deepened by the vagueness of terms like "transfer of jurisdiction" ["perepodchineniye"] and "dual jurisdiction" which are sometimes used with regard to contingents of the Union Armed Forces deployed in the republics' territories. From the viewpoint of the letter and spirit of the Nonproliferation Treaty, there could be a mixed reaction to the creation of the "special structures" that B. Yeltsin spoke about, which, in the absence of details, creates the impression of dual—centralized and Russian—control of nuclear weapons within Russia.

Yet the conference at which the future fate of the treaty will be decided is not so very far away, and cracks in the treaty's foundations could make that fate uncertain to say the least.

Remember the debates that flared up in the middle of the last decade over the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems. At least it has hitherto been possible to save it. But now?

For instance, the treaty permits the sides after 1972 to deploy strategic missile attack warning radars only on the periphery of national territory and oriented outward. Until recently the periphery was, for instance, the Baltic coast, where, according to some of "their" information, there are such facilities. What are we to do? Conclude agreements with the former union republics on leasing parcels of territory on condition that the equipment installed there is used specifically for its designated purpose? Or spend incredible sums on dismantling it and rebuilding it elsewhere?

In fact the first option cannot be ruled out. After all, the Americans have such systems in Greenland and Britain, built prior to 1972 but subsequently modernized. At first glance our case is simpler. But what will be the view of those for whom even this conventional use of the term "periphery" is an insult, and for whom the idea of any kind of military cooperation with "another state" is hardly likely to be acceptable?

At the same time warning radars play an important stabilizing role in a world that is still too full of nuclear weapons, and the Americans themselves have, I believe, an interest in the uninterrupted functioning of our radars.

The multilateral Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms Limitation and Reduction [START] have not yet come into force. What will happen now as regards their ratification?

A number of military districts within the limits of the region in the territory of the Soviet Union to which the first of these treaties applies, for which various specific total quantities of arms subject to limitation are stipulated, are located in the territory of the Ukraine, Moldova, and other republics. These total quantities form part of the agreed balance and can hardly be redistributed by means of simple division among the successor states.

The republics' declared intention, which is already being implemented, to create national troop formations gives grounds for raising the question of violation—by the Union which signed the treaty—of the international legal commitment not to deprive the treaty of its purpose prior to its entry into force. Furthermore, on signing this agreement the participants took on a commitment not to increase personnel strength during the period of further talks. Will the creation of territorial forces not come into conflict with this commitment?

What are we to do? Send the treaty back to the negotiating table, thereby calling into question not only this document, but its successor, which it was proposed to submit for signing at the CSCE conference in 1992, and therefore the entire military-political section of the all-European process?

And what lies in store for the START Treaty, which had such a difficult birth? Facilities in the territories of Kazakhstan, Russia, and the Ukraine are due to be covered by this treaty's operation. These are missile operating bases, storage facilities, and enterprises for the production of strategic offensive arms. If the declared intention of certain republic leaders to remove nuclear weapons from their territory is, in spite of everything, put into practice without delay, then not only will it mean the collapse of the carefully measured correlation between systems subject to reduction and those that are retained, but the structure of our strategic forces which has grown up over the years will be jeopardized. What price the treaty then?

What I have said is a pessimistic scenario for the development of events, a scenario that includes possibly fatal consequences for disarmament talks—whether current, planned, or possible in future.

But obviously I am laying it on too thick and wasting ink, since the organs for the transitional period will doubtless start up the well-oiled mechanism for the uninterrupted safeguarding of international rights and duties during this period of uncertainty. And this wise mechanism will strengthen and maybe create an integrated structure for coordinating and ensuring compliance with international-legal commitments in the disarmament sphere. And the competent intellectuals who control this mechanism will cherish the enormous collective experience and knowledge of the diplomats and negotiators. And the energetic new actors on the foreign policy stage will not try to take the whole game on themselves, perplexing their partners and causing confusion in the established order of interstate behavior. And the partners, in turn, will tactfully accept the multiple unity of the new union.

And references to the law will cease to be a mere tactic in parliamentary rhetoric...

Worldwide Issues

Foreign Ministry Gives Weekly Press Briefing

Baltics Admittance to UN Supported

LD1309140591 Moscow TASS in English 1207 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Igor Pekov and Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—The Soviet Union welcomes the resolution of the U.N. Security Council of September 12, which recommends the U.N. General Assembly to admit Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to the United Nations organisation, and urges the world community to support the appeal of those republics on joining the U.N. This was announced by head of the Foreign Ministry Information Directorate Vitaliy Churkin at a briefing today.

We proceed from the assumption that the joining of the U.N. by the Baltic republics "will promote its further formation as a truly general-purpose centre of cooperation in the settlement of common problems," Churkin continued.

The Soviet Union expresses firm conviction that after becoming part of the U.N. community the Baltic republics together with the Soviet Union will make a significant contribution to the development of large-scale international cooperation and will promote greater efficiency of that organisation in the solution of the main problem—the consolidation of world peace and security.

Baker-Pankin Talks Assessed

LD1309155191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1247 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Igor Peskov and Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (TASS)—The talks held over the last few days in Moscow between USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Boris Pankin and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker were "businesslike, full and productive" said Vitaliy Churkin, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry's information Directorate, at a briefing today.

The USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative assessed the joint statement on Afghanistan and the comments on it produced at the end of the talks as "a major event in Soviet-U.S. relations." These documents, he noted, "confirm once more the efficiency and potential of Soviet-U.S. cooperation in settling regional problems."

By dint of joint efforts to discuss the problems of a Middle East settlement, said the Soviet diplomat, it has become possible to approach in all earnestness convening a Middle East peace conference which "could quite well be held within a time scale set by the USSR and U.S. Presidents".

Vitaliy Churkin continued that the talks summed up the results of the discussion of the Cuba issue, in particular in light of the statement made by the Soviet side on its intention to withdraw the Soviet military training brigade from Cuba stage by stage. He noted that the Soviet side expressed the hope that this gesture will help the adoption of further measures to reduce tension around Cuba. Vitaliy Churkin also reported that the ministers agreed to maintain contacts with the intention of helping progress in the Cyprus settlement.

At the request of the U.S. side Boris Pankin told James Baker about the line being taken by the Union and

Russian leadership in normalizing relations with Japan, concluding a peace treaty and solving the territorial problem. The Soviet side notes that its interest in this problem is caused by the desire to see good Soviet-Japanese relations.

During the talks both sides expressed mutual concern toward the obstacles which have arisen for the UN inspection mission in Iraq in fulfilling its functions. The sides agreed that they will continue to cooperate within the framework of the UN Security Council with the intention of ensuring the implementation of the well-known resolutions of this body.

The ministers provided more substance to the earlier conceived plans for Soviet-U.S. talks and contacts in the sphere of disarmament, Vitaliy Churkin continued. In particular the intention was stated to undertake steps for the quickest possible ratification of the treaties on reducing conventional weapons in Europe and reducing strategic offensive weapons.

Boris Pankin and James Baker, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman said, have agreed to meet again while the UN General Assembly is in session. A meeting has also been planned between the USSR foreign minister and the U.S. President.

'No Contradiction' on Kurils Policy

LD1309160591 Moscow TASS in English 1427 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Igor Peskov and Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—The Soviet Foreign Ministry sees no contradiction between the course outlined by the Soviet leadership with respect to the Kuril Islands during talks with Japan, and the Russian leadership's position, Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Vitaliy Churkin told a briefing here today.

"The framework agreed upon during President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan in April 1991, is valid," Churkin said, "and I find no contradiction between it and Russian President Boris Yeltsin's five provisions and statements on the issue by other Russian representatives."

According to Churkin, Russia and its representatives have become more active on the issue, which "only deepens the Soviet stand and makes it a multi-layer one."

Churkin noted that in Japan, Ruslan Khasbulatov said the Russian and Soviet positions on the issue are fully matching.

Churkin said the Soviet and Russian leadership have opportunities to move ahead on the issue. "We are interested in developing the issue and will jointly search for a solution," Churkin said.

Pankin Meets With CSCE Conference Participants

Talks to Romania's Nastase

AU1209204191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1832 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow ROMPRES, 12/9/1991—Romanian Foreign Affairs Minister Adrian Nastase, who attends the All-European Conference on Human Rights in Moscow, met Boris Pankin, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR. Both sides expressed the wish to develop Romanian-Soviet relations on the new bases provided by the major transformations occurred in the two countries towards establishing a pluralist democracy and passing on to the market economy. The two ministers surveyed the major questions concerning the governments and public opinion in the two countries, including the situation of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good Neighbourliness between Romania and the Soviet Union in the light of the developments in the USSR and of the treaties it negotiates and is to conclude with the other East European countries. Both sides expressed their readiness and wish to find solutions to meet both countries' interests.

The Romanian minister also met with the Danish minister of foreign affairs, Uffe Elleman-Jensen, an opportunity to stress the fine course of the links between Romania and Denmark. The colloquitors agreed to further take steps to ensure a sustained pace of bilateral relations, of the development of economic exchanges and involvement of Danish firms in the Romanian economy in particular. Mr. Jensen expressed the support of his government within community bodies for the decision to be made as soon as possible of starting negotiations on the conclusion of the accord for Romania's association to the Common Market.

Adrian Nastase also met with Murman Omanidze, Georgia's foreign minister, who expressed the particular satisfaction of his country's government at Romania's recognition of the state independence of Georgia. The two ministers discussed measures that are to be taken to establish and develop friendly and cooperative ties between Romania and Georgia, including the conclusion of the accord for the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Confers With Albania's Kapllani

AU1309084491 Tirana ATA in English 0813 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 13 (ATA) — Boris Pankin, foreign minister of the Soviet Union received and met with the foreign minister of the Republic of Albania Muhamet Kapllani. During the meeting both ministers had a friendly talk, exchanged views and expressed the readiness for the development and materialization of the bilateral relations in the political, economic, cultural, technical-scientific fields, etc .

The two ministers were of the same opinion that the processes and profound democratic developments in Albania and in the Soviet Union create a broader space for these relations. The Albanian minister said that the failure of putch is a victory for the democratic forces in the Soviet Union and it had a positive impact on the democratic processes in Europe and on international scale. On his part the (?Soviet) minister said that he was aware of the difficulties Albania is undergoing in this transitory period and printed to the importance of consolidating democracy in the east and central European countries.

They also exchanged views on the situation in the Balkans and the Yugoslav crisis. The Albanian minister underlined the need for the Albanians of Kosovo and Yugoslavia to participate in the peace conference for Yugoslavia in order to reach a stable solution.

Meets With CSFR Counterpart

LD1209031691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1310 GMT 10 Sep 91

["Official: Foreign Affairs Ministry—Meeting With CSFR Foreign Minister"—TASS headline]

[Text] [no dateline as received] B.D. Pankin, USSR minister of foreign affairs, met CSFR Foreign Minister J. Dienstbier, who is taking part in the work of the Moscow CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension. A wide range of international humanitarian problems were discussed, and also questions of Soviet-Czechoslovak cooperation in light of the sides' mutual striving to strengthen trust and to further develop relations. The conversation was conducted in a businesslike and friendly atmosphere.

Talks With Hungary's Jeszenszky

LD1209030991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1337 GMT 10 Sep 91

["Official: Ministry of Foreign Affairs—Meeting With Hungarian Minister"—TASS headline]

[Text] [no dateline as received] A meeting has taken place between USSR Foreign Minister B.D. Pankin and G. Jeszenszky, Hungary's minister of foreign affairs, within the framework of the Moscow Conference on the Human Dimension. During the conversation, the importance of developing all-around humanitarian cooperation and strengthening the all-European process in all its dimensions was stressed. An interested exchange of views took place on topical questions of Soviet-Hungarian relations, and also on international problems that are of mutual interest.

Receives Finnish Counterpart

LD1209032291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1335 GMT 10 Sep 91

["Official: Ministry of Foreign Affairs—Meeting With Finnish Minister"—TASS headline]

[Text] [no dateline as received] A meeting took place between B.D. Pankin, USSR minister of foreign affairs, and P. Vaeyrynen, Finland's minister of foreign affairs, who came to Moscow for the opening of the third CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension. B.D. Pankin expressed gratitude to the Finnish side for support for the democratic course of transformation in our country. For his part the Finnish minister noted that the inspiring victory of democratic forces in the USSR in August this year is of principled significance also for the future of Soviet-Finnish relations.

During the conversation, which was conducted in an atmosphere of openness and trust, which is characteristic of Soviet-Finnish relations, there was an exchange of views on the situation on the European Continent and on main tendencies in the development of the all-European process within the framework of preparations for the forthcoming 1992 Helsinki-2 meeting. In reviewing questions of bilateral relations, the ministers spoke in favor of a most rapid solution to trade and economic and nature protection problems and the modernization of the mechanism for mutual cooperation between the two countries in the spirit of today's realities. P. Vaeyrynen invited B.D. Pankin to pay an official visit to Finland. The invitation was accepted with thanks.

Meets With SFRY's Loncar

PM1209032991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1350 GMT 10 Sep 91

["Official: Reception of Yugoslav Minister"—TASS headline]

[Text] [no dateline as received] B.D. Pankin, USSR minister of foreign affairs, has received B. Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs of the SFRY, who is taking part in the work of the Moscow CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension. A frank and substantial exchange of opinions on the situation in Yugoslavia, the external aspects of a Yugoslav settlement and topical questions of Soviet-Yugoslav relations took place.

B. Loncar described in detail the development of events in his country and gave his appraisal of the international efforts which are being made to try to stabilize the situation in the SFRY.

The USSR foreign minister reaffirmed the Soviet Union's position in support of any joint choice by the Yugoslav peoples for their future statehood if it can be implemented by peaceful democratic means. It was stated that the most important thing in the present developing conditions was to end the fratricidal armed clashes in Croatia.

The sides expressed a mutual desire to build up the developing potential of mutual understanding and trust, to support a stable dialogue between the two countries at all levels, and to extend the sphere of interaction in international affairs.

Shaposhnikov-Genscher Talks at CSCE Reported

PM1309152191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 91 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Meeting at USSR Defense Ministry"]

[Text] On 11 September Marshal of Aviation Ye.I. Shaposhnikov, USSR minister of defense, met with FRG Foreign Minister H.-D. Genscher, who is in Moscow in connection with the CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension.

Problems concerning the state of the contemporary international situation, its development prospects, and the further deepening of Soviet-German bilateral relations were touched on during the talks.

The USSR defense minister emphasized that the withdrawal of units and combined units of the Western Group of Forces from FRG territory will be carried out strictly according to plan and be completed, as provided for in the treaty, by the end of 1994. Questions connected with the construction of housing for the families of servicemen among the troops being withdrawn from the FRG were also touched on in the talks.

Gorbachev, Spain's Foreign Minister CSCE Talks

LD1109195491 Moscow TASS in English 1806 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 11 TASS—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Wednesday met Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez.

The minister conveyed an oral message from Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to Gorbachev, in which the prime minister expresses deep concern for Soviet reforms and readiness to develop Soviet-Spanish cooperation. Gonzalez reiterated Spain's adherence to agreements signed during the Soviet-Spanish summit in Moscow last summer.

Ordonez said Spain will associate with radical changes in the Soviet Union initiated by Gorbachev.

Gorbachev welcomed the Spanish Government's position, saying its support will be vital during a transitional period.

Gorbachev and Ordonez discussed specific measures to be taken to expand bilateral cooperation.

The president asked Ordonez to convey his best wishes to the prime minister and the Spanish people.

Fernandez-Ordonez Comments

LD1209212191 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] In Moscow the scheduled debate on human rights, organized by the CSCE, has turned into a spoken reflection on changes in East Europe and the Soviet Union. This is proving to be the real backdrop for all the speeches and meetings outside the hall where the debates are taking place. In this connection, Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, addressing the meeting today, stressed that human rights violations cannot be considered an internal matter for each state. Angel Garcia, our special correspondent, reports from Moscow:

[Begin recording] [Garcia] Fernandez-Ordonez today told Mikhail Gorbachev, during the meeting he had with the Soviet president, his ideas on continuing bilateral relations. Spain's position on this matter is very positive and there is support for the whole process which is being carried out in the Soviet Union. Earlier, during his address to the Conference on the Human Dimension, the minister stressed the principle of intervention for human rights' reasons in European countries. According to Fernandez-Ordonez, in that case one cannot speak of interference in internal matters:

[Fernandez-Ordonez] We are today all agreed here that human rights violations are never internal matters for states but rather they refer to the international community, and the international community has to deploy all the means necessary so that these rights can be applied.

[Garcia] The problem will be to see how observers are sent when the country involved does not want to receive them. Fernandez-Ordonez stressed the need for aid to the Soviet Union, because the economy is the most important problem to be faced, although prior to this it is necessary for mechanisms to be articulated. The same thing applies to the new union—the need for there to be some form of a union between the different republics:

[Fernandez-Ordonez] There is a majority of countries within the CSCE, among them Spain, which favor [words indistinct] which will coordinate the future meetings of the republics forming part, at the moment, of the Soviet Union. [end recording]

Gorbachev, Vatican Official Meet at CSCE

LD1209163591 Moscow TASS in English 1621 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 12 TASS—President Mikhail Gorbachev met Jean-Louis Toran, secretary of the Vatican for relations with states, in the Kremlin here today.

During a friendly conversation, they touched upon a wide range of matters connected with the state of affairs in the Soviet Union and prospects for its further development and, in particular, those connected with the Moscow session of the CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension.

Toran said his holiness John-Paul II with deep satisfaction welcomed the triumph of democratic forces that foiled the anti-constitutional putsch and ensured a continuation and deepening of the process of reforms in the Soviet Union.

The pontiff puts an exceptionally deep trust in the Soviet president and wishes him successes along the no easy road lying ahead, Toran said.

The Vatican secretary delivered the pontiff's personal message to the president.

Gorbachev, having expressed heartfelt satisfaction with how relations between the two countries develop, emphasised the importance of the holy see's contribution to the development of the European process.

The president agreed with the idea expressed by Toran that Europe should be a continent of solidarity. A lack of the Europeans' solidarity would be fatal, he said.

Gorbachev and Toran exchanged views on the problems of the Catholic Church in the Soviet Union and expressed conviction about the need for the development of good relations between all confessions in the name of dissemination and implantation of the principles of ethics, morality, and tolerance in society.

Zhirinovskiy Meets Journalists at CSCE Forum

LD1209211191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1520 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 12 Sep (TASS)—Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who is aiming at the USSR presidency, does not wish to change his political role as a follower of the authoritarian methods of administration. He confirmed this again today in the lobby of the third CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension which is being held in Dom Soyuzov in Moscow, when he shared his views with journalists on processes taking place in the USSR.

The chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of the Soviet Union stated, in particular, that Russia is not ready for democracy and its "diseases cannot be cured" in this way.

What are the "prescriptions" of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy with regard to extricating the country from the crisis?

In the first place—making answerable those who actively came out against the putschists during the August events.

In the second place—suppressing the resistance of all those who think differently, by using "economic and legal methods, up to armed force."

Leaders Address Conference on Human Dimension

USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Speaks

LD1309222591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1620 GMT 12 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Nikolay Vukolov, Andrey Krasnoshchekov, and Vitaliy Menshikov]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 12 Sep (TASS)—[Passage omitted] The CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension is getting into the swing of its work. The three weeks set aside in the schedule for drawing up the final document of the conference is not all that long if one takes into account that there is a multitude of issues for discussion in two working groups and in a number of informal groups. In other words, a businesslike approach is needed, which is what USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Deryabin, cochairman of the USSR delegation at the Moscow conference, called for today at the morning meeting.

In his address the need was stressed to draw up in Moscow international guarantees for the existence of democratic institutions and for the implementaton of international obligations in the sphere of human rights and basic liberties, including effective mechanisms for monitoring their implementation within the framework of the CSCE process.

Yu. Deryabin officially submitted for examination a proposal by the Soviet delegation on "human rights and the basic freedoms under a state of emergency." Taking into account the events of 19-21 August in the USSR, this is of fundamental importance. The proposal contains a call to all countries to bring their national legislation in this sphere into line with international documents on the protection of human rights and basic liberties.

In the address attention was drawn to the problem of ethnic minorities. Yu. Deryabin noted that this delicate matter requires an immediate solution, for the absence of international norms in this sphere is fraught with the risk of an escalation of conflicts on an ethnic basis. Moreover, the Soviet delegation intends to submit a proposal on setting up posts to observe the fulfillment of international obligations in the sphere of human rights in the CSCE member states. There would be a small collective of independent CSCE observers in each country taken from among citizens of that state or other member countries. Such monitoring posts would implement large-scale public monitoring of the fulfillment by governments of their obligations in the sphere of human rights, Yu. Deryabin noted.

In the corridors of the forum there was a question on the position of the Ukraine and Belorussia, which did not wish to become members of the Soviet delegation at the conference on the pretext that the Soviet Union allegedly does not allow them to join the CSCE. In actual fact, this is not the case. The Soviet delegation supports the striving of these republic to become observers or full members of the CSCE process. Either status envisages that the state is independent, sovereign, and fully fulfills all obligations within the CSCE framework. However, the majority of Western delegations, as follows from conversations with their representatives, having given the green light for the Baltic republics to join, which as they note is a special case, are against including in the CSCE process new states, particularly now. From their statements it can be concluded that this is a matter of time, but to date it cannot be resolved.

A note which is out of tune with the general mood reigning at the Moscow meeting was struck by the statements made by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of the Soviet Union, whose appearance in the foyer of the Column Hall of the House of the Unions instantly aroused animation. In the categorical manner characteristic of him, V. Zhirinovskiy started sharing his recipes for getting the country out of the crisis. He stated that the resistance of all dissidents should be suppressed "by economic and legal methods, even including the use of the Armed Forces, subordinate to me as president." Second, all those who actively came out against the putschists in the course of the August events should be prosecuted. Such statements met with sarcasm from participants and the journalists who surrounded Zhirinovskiy, especially taking into account that he unambiguously suggested to "dissidents" that they should all "pack their bags."

Estonia's Meri Praises Russian Role

OW1209143291 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1600 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday the Russian President Boris Yeltsin conferred at Russia's White House with foreign ministers from CSCE countries.

Speaking at the conference Estonia's Foreign Minister Lennart Meri pointed to the leading role played by Russia in the democratic processes taking place in Soviet society. He said he hopes that the CSCE conference in Moscow will open new prospects for promoting democracy in Russia and in the USSR. The Helsinki process as a whole, said L. Meri, will be conducive to strengthening cooperation between Russia and the Baltic states.

L. Meri assured the Russian president that the people of Estonia have invariably had amicable feelings toward the people of Russia. He referred to the enormous role of Russian culture played in the life of all Baltic republics.

De Michelis Addresses Participants

AU1109091291 Rome ANSA in English 0833 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] (ANSA) Moscow, September 10—Certain aspects and terms of the over thirty accords struck between the Soviet Union and Italy will have to be reviewed in following the decentralization of power in the Soviet Union, Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis confirmed here Tuesday at the end of his two-day visit here to attend the session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

In a press conference held before his departure, De Michelis affirmed he had gathered all the elements he sought in the Soviet capital which will enable the Italian Government to re-define its policy, especially in the economic field, towards the Soviet Union and its peoples and republics.

Existing bilateral accords, De Michelis underscored, may now have to be carried out no longer with the central authorities in Moscow but with the individual republics which have become, more or less, independent. This taking into account that Italy has opted to consider the single republics as sovereign entities.

Overall questions regarding future relations between Italy and the new Soviet Union will top the agenda when Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti visits here September 21 and at the end of the month when De Michelis and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin meet on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The current situation in the Soviet Union and its most immediate needs were the focus of talks De Michelis had (?held) with President Mikhail Gorbachev, Russian Federation (?president) Boris Yeltsin, Russian prime minister Ivan Silayev and former Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

In all these encounters, attention was drawn to the enormous difficulties facing the current leadership in short to medium-term, including food shortages.

On a more positive side, De Michelis said that both Yeltsin and Silayev confirmed their readiness to collaborate with Gorbachev in the creation of a new union of sovereign republics.

Since the attempted coup in August, De Michelis affirmed, Yeltsin and Gorbachev have been in constant contact to discuss how to best tackle the problems facing the Soviet Union.

De Michelis also said that Yeltsin had accepted "with great warmth" an invitation to pay a visit to Italy, most likely some time between October and November.

Romania's Nastase Discusses Moldova

AU1209091391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1212 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 12/9/991—After the conference in Vienna, which set the date for the present meeting in Moscow—the third CSCE meeting on the human dimension—tremendous changes have been wrought in Europe, Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase said on Wednesday, September 11, in his address at the CSCE meeting in Moscow.

The aborted putsch in the Soviet Union, which is still fresh in our memory, highlighted the risks the new union and we all may further encounter. In Romania, the coup was regarded with utmost concern and we were not hesitant in taking [a] firm stance against it, reiterating our determination to go along with the democratic process external circumstances notwithstanding.

A new situation has emerged in the CSCE. After losing one of the founding members in the wake of Germany's unification we are witnesses to an equally positive phenomenon: The rise in the number of CSCE members. In June Albania joined the CSCE family. Now the Baltic states are taking their legitimate seats at our common table. We hope that in the near future the Republic of Moldova, whose people is entitled to self-determination but is still fighting for a recognition of the independence it proclaimed on August 27, 1991, will become one of the CSCE participating states. We wish our partners in the CSCE, the foreign minister said, would adopt an equitable attitude towards all the states legitimately asserting their independence, without discrimination. It is our opinion that this dual standard may foment instability in Europe rather than protect it. And if, recognizing the Baltic states' right to secession, we agreed we were ready to liquidate the nefarious consequences of the Ribbentop-Molotov Pact, we must not hesitate to eliminate all its consequences. The new Europe should not maintain either the Nazi or the communist inheritance.

We think that the human dimension of the CSCE may and must be used as an instrument to build, or rather, to rebuild democratic societies, especially in this part of the continent and that the adherence of all the states participating in the CSCE to the European Human Rights Convention and to the mechanism subsequently developed by the Council of Europe should be possible even before all East European states become council members, the Romanian foreign minister opined welcoming a proposal advanced by the federal foreign minister of Germany, Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, for the creation of possibilities of access to the European Court of Justice for Human Rights of all the citizens of Europe even if the state in which they live is not a member of the Council of Europe. In this way, he said, we will be able to achieve a common European legal space for human rights, as an exigent demand for the European unity we all desire.

A second line of action for us, Mr. Nastase suggested, could be the ensurance of international assistance within a bilateral and multilateral framework, for the building of democratic institutions on the basis of observance of human rights, especially in the case of countries that are now returning to the road of democracy and freedom.

A third line of action could be the ensurance of a better correlation between the mechanisms of the CSCE and those of the Council of Europe to avoid superpositions and by achieving the concerted action of the mechanisms of the two bodies, in consideration of the fact that most CSCE participating countries are or will become members of the Council of Europe.

There is a substantial measure of certainty at present as concerns the strengthening of the CSCE human dimension. We all speak the same language—the language of democracy, of political pluralism, of the primacy of law, of free and fair elections, of the observance and safeguarding of the fundamental rights and freedoms of man and of free initiative.

However, there are two threats to the whole CSCE edifice. One of them is linked to the question of minorities and we note, with serious concern, more and more marked tendencies to resort to a language that differs from our common assets, which were developed in the Copenhagen document and which were set on the Western countries' whole post-war experience in the treatment of minorities. CSCE documents regard minorities as an integrant part of the societies in which they live without subjecting them to a "droit de regard" from another society, other than that linked to a general observance of CSCE human rights commitments. In our opinion, to stray away from this approach is wrong and may cause tension, confrontation and conflict.

The CSCE documents set high European standards as far as the rights of minorities are concerned. We believe that our attention and efforts should concentrate on the integral application of these standards in the whole CSCE area.

The second threat, which we cannot ignore unless we are ready to assume serious risks, is the wide economic gap between Western countries on the one hand and Eastern countries and the USSR on the other hand. Unless it is gradually filled, this gap will undermine the establishment of democracy in this part of the continent. The consequences of the economic crisis which affects to a different extent all the countries in the East are not an exclusively East European problem, the Romanian minister of foreign affairs also said in his address.

Polish, CSFR Delegates Speak

LD1209181491 Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 11 Sep 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents]

[Text] Moscow September 11 TASS—Just as most speakers who addressed the third CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension, Polish Foreign Minister Krysztof Skubiszewski noted special importance of the present forum in Moscow. The minister said this shows that democratic processes in Eastern Europe are developing and assuming more specific outlines.

Skubiszewski said that the joining of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe will promote peaceful democratic development of the states and consolidation of the European process.

Stressing that the failure of the putsch proved the irreversibility of democratic processes in Eastern Europe, he declared for Russia, the Ukraine and other Union republics joining in the European process which will lead to its consolidation and enrichment.

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier also assessed the situation in Eastern Europe. He said that the line that used to divide the continent into two military-political blocs, remains the border-line between stability and instability.

Dienstbier said that East European countries do not quite see how they should use the acquired freedom. National strife and hatred are manifested in these countries. In this connection he noted the importance of mechanisms developed in CSCE framework.

Heads of many delegations expressed concern over the situation in Yugoslavia. A consensus was reached that the crisis in Yugoslavia can only be resolved by peaceful political means on the basis of CSCE principles.

CSCE Highlights Union Foreign Ministry's Eclipse

PM1209102591 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Sep 91 p 3

[By S. Ivanov and A. Chursin: "Human Rights? That Is Splendid... Conference on the Human Dimension Opened Yesterday"]

[Excerpt] "The opening of the conference was marvelously organized," Yelena Bonner told your correspondents. Those Muscovites and guests of the capital who succeeded in getting anywhere close to the House of Unions were easily able to see that for themselves. The militia cordons on Pushkin Street and in Okhotnyy Row symbolized the "genuine" human rights of unimpeded movement.

The event of the day was a meeting of the 35 foreign ministers of the CSCE participant countries, held early in the morning. Within a narrow circle the heads of the foreign policy departments of European countries, the United States, and Canada reached a consensus on the question of the accreditation of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania at the CSCE conference as members with full rights.

This fact, which is now a commonplace occurrence, would have merited no special attention if the fast-moving political reality were not adding new elements every day. It was learned literally as the Moscow conference opened that, according to a statement by Foreign Minister H.-D. Genscher, the FRG intends to establish consular relations with all the republics that have proclaimed independence. Will this be an example worthy of emulation? On the other hand, it is easier to make the move from consular representatives to diplomatic relations along an already beaten track.

A familiar senior official of the USSR Foreign Ministry was strolling through the conference lobby with a very sad face. He responded to the traditional question "How are things?" with a vague wave of his hand. He did go on to say that they—the professional diplomats—are still at work but that no one, not even the minister, knows what will happen tomorrow.

It is not hard to understand our interlocutor's pessimism. Hardly anyone is gladdened by the prospect of moving from a seat in an office in what was in former times probably one of the most prestigious ministries to a line at a labor exchange. It is, incidentally, a perfectly real prospect, if you consider that the Union Foreign Ministry is already on the point of losing its exclusive monopoly on foreign policy contacts. This conference is direct confirmation of the fact. Thus, the heads of the West's diplomatic departments, managing without the assistance of the leading Union diplomatic specialists, are holding active talks and consultations inside and outside the framework of the Moscow conference with new but determined colleagues from the republics' diplomatic services now finding their feet.

In addition to the official conference program, a mass of parallel measures is taking place in Moscow over a very wide range of topics. On the eve of the forum's opening the Soviet Committee for European Security held a debate entitled "Human Rights, Nations' Rights," and the All-Union [as published] Confederation of Trade Unions of the USSR organized a meeting on trade union rights and migration problems. Sexual minorities were not overlooked either. The Soviet Association of Lesbians and Homosexuals held its own roundtable jointly with Danish and Swedish partners—"The Rights of Lesbians and Homosexuals in Europe." [passage omitted]

United States & Canada

Baker Continues Meetings in Moscow

Meets Shaposhnikov

LD1309120991 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Today USSR Defense Minister Marshal of Aviation Shaposhnikov, met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker who is in Moscow in connection with the Moscow CSCE conference on the Human Dimension. They discussed problems connected with the strengthening of international security and the further development of all-round Soviet-U.S. relations including the military sphere and the preparation and implementation of radical military reforms in the USSR Armed Forces.

Shaposhnikov, Baker 'Satisfied'

LD1309121491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1141 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (TASS)—"I am profoundly satisfied with the results of talks with USSR Defense Minister Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov," U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said after meeting with the head of the Soviet military department. This meeting took place today at the USSR Ministry of

Defense and, in the opinion of the U.S. Secretary of State, "had a constructive character."

James Baker reported that during the talks the Soviet minister confirmed that "the USSR's nuclear missile weaponry will continue to be under the control of the center".

The USSR minister of defense shares the opinion of James Baker in his assessment of the results of this meeting. Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov said that he and the U.S. secretary of state discussed problems connected with the strengthening of international security. "We are satisfied with the development of all-round Soviet-U.S. relations, including in the military field," he stated. By agreement with the U.S. side, the Soviet minister pointed out, it is intended that in the near future either he himself will visit the United States or his U.S. counterpart Richard Cheney will visit the USSR.

In the opinion of both men, "the meeting took place in an atmosphere of frankness [otkrovennost], mutual understanding, and trust."

On the same day at the USSR Defense Ministry James Baker met with Army General Vladimir Lobov, Chief of General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

Baker Meets Lobov

LD1309130691 Moscow TASS in English 1255 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has suggested starting talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on reducing their tactical nuclear arsenals.

Gen. Vladimir Lobov, chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, backed Baker's suggestion.

During their meeting today the sides also agreed on the need to strengthen Soviet-American military contacts. In Baker's view, these contacts should be intensive, without breaks and in the interests of both parties.

Meets KGB's Bakatin

OW1309171491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, his Friday meeting with the KGB chief Vadim Bakatin at the Lubyanka KGB headquarters in Moscow is the most expressive symbol of the changes taking place in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Baker was speaking to journalists shortly before the meeting and welcomed the fact that Mr. Bakatin's appointment to the KGB after the coup's failure had already resulted in the "opening" of some of the KGB archives, among them those concerning the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, kidnapped by Soviet agents in Budapest in 1945.

Mr. Baker said he vould like to discuss with Mr. Bakatin a package of issues related to the fate of Americans who had gone missing in the fighting in different years.

V. Bakatin observed that now that the KGB had lost its chief enemy, it would have to work hard to acquire a decent reputation in the absence of enemies.

Bakatin Discusses Cooperation

LD1309163291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1528 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Borisov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (TASS)—Vadim Bakatin, chairman of the USSR KGB, today met here U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who is taking part in the Moscow meeting of the CSSE Conference on the Human Dimension.

"Either changes are taking place in the KGB, or I am not the leader who should be in this position,"—these were Vadim Bakatin's first words directed at James Baker that journalists were able to hear upon entering the office of the KGB chairman during an interval in their conversation. For five minutes they had the opportunity to ask questions.

For the KGB there was always the question of who the main enemy was, Vadim Bakatin said. "Now we have lost our main enemy. It is therefore still necessary to do a lot of work to take on a new identity in conditions when there are no enemies. In this," the KGB chairman stressed, "we are prepared to cooperate."

According to James Baker, the appointment of Vadim Bakatin to this position is evidence of the changes that are taking place in the Soviet Union. The internal changes inside the USSR have been reflected in relations between the USSR and the United States, the U.S. secretary of state noted. Evidence of this is that the USSR KGB chairman is today receiving the U.S. secretary of state in his office.

As a TASS correspondent found out after the end of the meeting, among the problems discussed were the political situation in the world, the new realities in the USSR after the coup, issues of creating a new economic union between the republics, and the new political association on the basis of the union.

Vadim Baktin informed James Baker about plans for reform in the KGB, its new functions, and the principles of the KGB's activities.

The participants at the meeting also discussed the prospects for cooperation between the KGB and the U.S. special services, primarily in the sphere of the fight against terrorism and drug smuggling.

Meets Shevardnadze

OW1309141091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A meeting between the Soviet former Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that took place at the Moscow headquarters of the Movement for Democratic Reforms on September 12 was devoted to the analysis of the processes underway in the USSR. Shevardnadze who is now head of the Foreign Policy Association argued that the Union could be maintained if the centre's functions and terms of reference are changed. He warned that "an avalanche-like breakup of the Union would trigger off worldwide anarchy."

Baker agreed that the main thing today is to resolve the economic problems and to sign an economic union between the republics. According to the state secretary, that would lay foundation for the resolution of political issues as well. Baker believes that a plan must be worked out to revitalize the Soviet economy that could give the USSR membership in the International Monetary Fund. In this case, emphasized Baker, the West can do far more than what it had promised to do at the G-7 London meeting in July.

Pankin, Baker Agree on Afghanistan

OW1409011491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1245 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to stop supplying arms to the warring factions in Afghanistan from 1 January, 1992 and will not increase arms supplies prior to that. The news was given on Friday in a Soviet-American joint statement on Afghanistan by USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The document also expresses the hope that the remaining Soviet prisoners of war will be released before the end of the year.

At the end of his talks with the Secretary of State Boris Pankin said that the Soviet Union hoped these joint steps will facilitate the normalisation of the intra-Afghan negotiation process and lead to a break in, and eventually to a complete cessation of military activity in Afghanistan.

150-Kiloton Underground Nuclear Test in Nevada

LD1509060391 Moscow TASS in English 0549 GMT 15 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Mikhail Kolesnichenko]

[Text] New York September 15 TASS—The United States staged a 150-kiloton underground nuclear explosion at the nuclear testing site in Nevada on Saturday, the first since it had signed protocols with the Soviet Union in 1990 to supervise nuclear tests.

Although Soviet observers were not present during the test, U.S. Energy Department spokesman Darwin Morgan said, they had been following preparations for three months.

According to Morgan, 23 Soviet scientists had been at the testing site in Nevada from June until the end of August, where they were thoroughly informed about the U.S. nuclear test programme and test performance mechanisms.

Northeast Asia

Medvedev Arrives in Seoul for Economic Talks

LD1609065491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0545 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tokyo, 16 Sep (TASS)—Vadim Medvedev, special representative of the USSR president, arrived today in Seoul. Tomorrow, he will be received by the president of the Republic of Korea, No Tae-u, and will hand him a personal message from Mikhail Gorbachev. During a five-day visit, the representative of the Soviet leader will meet officials of the Seoul administration and leaders of business circles to discuss ways of further developing bilateral commercial and economic contacts.

As stated recently by Deputy Foreign Minister Chang Man-sun, the South Korean Government will grant the USSR financial aid in keeping with a previously reached accord. It is expected that by the end of the year, the Soviet Union will receive $800 million in the form of credits for the purchase of South Korean goods, including medicines and medical equipment, and also an untied bank credit to the value of $500 million.

Yavlinskiy 'Openly' Declares Kuriles Japanese

LD1009082691 Moscow TASS in English 0729 GMT 10 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo September 10 TASS—The Soviet Union should show determination and goodwill by returning the "northern territories" to Japan, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, vice chairman of the Soviet interim administration, told the Japanese KYODO TSUSHIN news agency in a letter this week.

The "northern territories" are a group of four islands in the Kurile chain north of Japan, which were seized by the Soviet Union in the closing days of the Second World War.

Yavlinskiy is the first Soviet leader to openly declare the four islands Shikotan, Kunashir, Iturup and Habomai belong to Japan.

He stressed the territorial problem should be solved in accordance with the policy of new thinking, which proved fruitful for relations between the Soviet Union and other countries.

"I'm sure this problem can and will be solved in the near future. To my mind, the first Russian-Japanese treaty concluded in 1855 through negotiations, could provide a moral and legal basis for such a solution. The border established by the treaty should also be confirmed. The islands of Iturup, Kunashir, Habomai and Shikotan should be returned to Japan, without infringing upon their residents' rights. This should take top priority. By observing this treaty we will get rid of yet another legacy of our totalitarian past," Yavlinskiy said.

He believes the solution will largely depend on the situation in the Soviet Union and its future. "I am deeply convinced a correct, open and fair explanation of the historical background to the problem, to the people of the Soviet Union and Russia, will be understood and will not create new problems," Yavlinskiy said.

Sakhalin Troop Commander Cited on Withdrawal

OW1609103991 Radio Moscow in Japanese 1100 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] President Gorbachev mentioned reduction of Soviet troops on the Kurile Islands during his visit to Japan last April. Meanwhile, as pointed out by Colonel General Novozhilov, commander of the Far Eastern Military District, it is expected that at most, 30 percent of the troops deployed in this area will be reduced. Well then, how about the process of reduction now? In reply to my question, Lieutenant General (Lisotskiy), Sakhalin troop commander, stated the following:

Various problems are being settled now, and reduction will start soon. Several units of the artillery division stationed in the Kurile Islands will be abolished. In addition, a large number of weapons have been removed from ordinary alert positions and put in storage. Regarding the possible reduction of Soviet troops deployed on Sakhalin Island, I would like to point out that a total of three incomplete divisions are deployed in Sakhalin, and five complete divisions are stationed in Hokkaido.

In settling the militarization issue, it is necessary to take a balanced and professional approach. Moreover, we hope that an equal and reciprocal approach will be taken toward us. In fact, the Soviet side has already taken quite a few measures: 200,000 troops have been reduced in the Far East, and the troop structure has been shifted into one exclusivly devoted to the principle of defense.

Then, I asked another question on the theme for the recent exercises conducted by troops stationed in Sakhalin as far as he knew. To this question, Lieutenant General (Lisotskiy) answered as follows:

We do not have another theme here. The troops' objective is to stop landings on the island. They are not expected to carry out other objectives, nor are they required to do other tasks. When viewed from military or other standpoints, it is a pure fabrication that Soviet troops in Sakhalin are imposing a threat, for instance to the Japanese.

DPRK Rejection of Nuclear Inspection Criticized

SK1609035591 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 0900 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama issued a statement at a news conference in Tokyo, denouncing the DPRK for its refusal to sign the agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency on the inspection of its nuclear facilities. Foreign Minister Nakayama said that as long as Pyongyang maintains this position, Japan will not officially recognize the DPRK.

To remind the listeners, in 1989 the DPRK signed the international Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The treaty stipulates that any non-nulcear state signing it, if it has facilities involved in the use of nuclear energy, must open them to the international inspectors, and such a state must not attach any condition to the implementation of this inspection.

Regrettably, Pyongyang's attitude is different from this. The DPRK stated last year that it could agree to the inspection of its nuclear facilities only when the United States withdrew its nuclear weapons from South Korea. By this, the DPRK has in mind some 1,000 units of nuclear ammunition believed to be in the possession of the 43,000 U.S. forces in South Korea.

Last spring, expectations surfaced that the DPRK might give up its stand of closely linking the nuclear inspection issue with the U.S. nuclear arms in South Korea. A statement that came from Pyongyang could be interpreted by the international community to mean that North Korea might reconsider its position. However, doubts about this soon arose. A couple of days ago, a DPRK spokesman flatly stated that inspection of the Democratic Republic's nuclear facilities would be possible provided the United States withdraw its nuclear weapons from the southern half of Korea.

It is not difficult to understand Pyongyang's view of U.S. nuclear arms in South Korea. According to a long tradition, Washington neither acknowledges nor denies the existence of nuclear arms in South Korea. Is it proper then for Pyongyang to raise this issue as a condition to fulfilling its duty as stipulated in the treaty? This attitude taken by the DPRK does not help promote its international dignity. Tokyo's reaction substantiates this.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Commentator Discusses Sino-Vietnamese Relations

BK1309082391 Moscow Radio Moscow in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Station commentator: "The Results of Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam's Visit to China"]

[Text] It can be said now that 1991 will mark the arrival point of a new period in the history of Sino-Vietnamese relations. The main result of the Vietnamese foreign minister's visit to China was the agreement on holding a summit meeting between the two countries. The joint communique says that the meeting will be held before the end of the year.

The Sino-Vietnamese meeting will assess the total normalization of bilateral relations. The unpleasant experience of Hanoi and Beijing has once again asserted the simple truth that it is easy to have relations deteriorate but difficult to restore them. One can unknowingly see an example here about the history of Sino-Vietnamese relations. It must be said that the very process of normalizing Sino-Vietnamese relations has to a considerable extent set the future activity in the development of relations among regional countries, including Sino-Vietnamese relations.

Evidently, I have no intention at all to deny the clear-sightedness and political will of the Vietnamese and Chinese leaders, and last but not least, to doubt the value of the traditional friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples. Witnesses have related that even during the most difficult years, the Vietnamese and Chinese people along the border areas always sought ways to avoid severing their relations.

Now the two countries have advanced toward opening wide the Sino-Vietanmese border. There are now 60 road checkpoints along the border to carry out trade relations between the two countries. It is certain that in the future, trade and the economy will be the priority guidelines for the development of Sino-Vietnamese cooperation. Just as Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said in Beijing that both sides intend to sign in time ahead a series of agreements on economic, trade, technological and cultural cooperation, on the development of road communications, and so forth.

I would like to talk particularly about the Cambodian issue, which for a long time has been the main obstacle to Sino-Vietnamese relations. Beijing and Hanoi have asserted their intention to cooperate with each other for the purpose of settling promptly and definitively the conflict in Cambodia.

The past months have clearly indicated that the two countries can strongly influence the acceleration of this process. Vietnamese foreign minister's visit to China took place at a time when positive preparations have been extensively made for the Paris International Conference on Cambodia. It is totally realistic that the conference will be held in late October. The high-ranking Vietnamese leaders will then visit Beijing. Last but not least, the joint Sino-Vietnamese communique clearly indicated that from now on and in the future, the bilateral relations will be built on the principles of coexistence.

Beijing and Hanoi emphasize that their relations do not oppose Third World countries. We think in this region and even outside this region, such a stand will be most welcomed.

Commentary Notes 'Lesson' from Sino-Lao Ties

BK1509083191 Moscow Radio Moscow in Lao 1030 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Aleksandr Nikolayev commentary]

[Text] The XINHUA NEWS AGENCY reported on Friday that China and Laos reached an agreement on the borderline between the two countries. The said treaty will be officially signed in the near future. The Chinese-Lao agreement to resolve the border problems actually shows that there is no more conflict remaining in the bilateral relations between the two countries. Not very long ago, the scenario in the relations between the two countries was entirely different from the present one.

In the late 1970's and early 1980's, the rising tension between China and Vietnam caused by the Cambodian problem created adverse effects on the Lao-Chinese relations. Many untoward incidents consequently occurred along the border of the two countries and their economic and trading relations were also put on the hold let alone the launching of slanderous campaigns against each other. Moreover, the level of diplomatic relations between the two countriss was also scaled down. Nonetheless, during the summer of 1988, diplomatic relations between them were once again restored to the ambassadorial level. An important factor contributing to the improvement of the Lao-Chinese relations was the total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia in September 1989. In early October of the same year, Lao leader Kaysone Phomvihan paid a visit to Beijing. During the visit, the two sides unanimously concluded that the period of tension in their bilateral relations had ended. Since then, Sino-Lao relations have been rapidly developed in all fields. In August last year, the two sides signed a provisional agreement on the common borderline of the two countries and agreed to turn border areas into a zone of comprehensive cooperation. The visit to Laos by PRC Premier Li Peng in December last year also gave new impetus to Lao-Chinese relations.

At present while the issue of the restoration of normal relations between China and Vietnam has been settled in Beijing, and at a time when the solution of the Cambodian problem is nearing the finish line, a new atmosphere has emerged in Asia, in which the Lao-Chinese relations play an important constructive role. I am of the view that in contemporary Asia, in which numerous problems among many neighboring countries have not yet been settled, including border problems, a lesson learned from the restoration of good neighborly relations within a short period of time between Laos and China will become an important example for other countries.

TASS Observer Views Cambodian Peace Process

LD1409011891 Moscow TASS in English 1814 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS international news observer Sergey Afonin]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—An agreement on a comprehensive political settlement to the Cambodian conflict is expected to be signed on October 31. This was announced by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and by Chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council Norodom Sihanouk, it is reported from Paris.

The Cambodian problem connected with the bloody war that lasted many years and with contradictions between Khmers who were also drawn into that conflict will soon be resolved. Looking back on the path covered by Cambodia over the past 12 years, one is inclined to mention the most important milestones of the recent past: four years ago the Phnom Penh government guided by goodwill and supreme interests of the nation proclaimed the road to a fair political solution to the Cambodian problem. This made it possible to establish a dialogue between Khmers.

The United Nations is playing an ever more vigorous role in the quest for the ways of settlement. The international Parisian conference on Cambodia was held in the summer of 1989. In September 1989 Vietnam completed its troop withdrawal from Cambodia. The Supreme National Council of Cambodia was formed last year. Five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council worked out a peace plan of Cambodia. Finally, a series of meetings of the Supreme National Council with the five permanent members of the Security Council was held this year.

These and other measures taken by the Cambodian side in the spirit of national reconciliation in the world community ensured the needed progress. It now remains to coordinate the schedule for the resumption of the work of the international Paris conference on Cambodia. France and Indondesia, the co-chairmen of the conference, work in this direction. The participants in this authoritative conference will soon sign the long-awaited agreement on Cambodia.

One would like to believe that peace will come to every house in Cambodia soon and that Cambodia will become a peaceful, independent and neutral democratic state guaranteeing fundamental rights and liberties to citizens. The tragic past of Cambodia requires from the world community a specific contribution to an early resumption of normal life in the country.

Near East & South Asia

Presidential Envoy Primakov Continues Mideast Tour

Arrives in UAE 14 Sep

LD1409161191 Moscow TASS in English 1334 GMT 14 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Malyarov]

[Text] Cairo September 14 TASS—Yevgeniy Primakov, the Soviet president's personal envoy, today completed his visit to Saudi Arabia.

During a two-day stay in the Kingdom he delivered Mikhail Gorbachev's message to Saudi Monarch Fahd and held a series of talks with officials.

The talks focused on matters related to a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem and bilateral Soviet-Saudi relations, those in the economic field, in particular.

Later in the day Primakov, who is touring a number of countries of the Near and Middle East, arrived in the United Arab Emirates.

Relays Gorbachev Message

LD1509091291 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Yevgeniy Primakov, now on a tour of the Middle East as envoy of the Soviet president, met in Abu Dhabi on Saturday with second in command of the armed forces of the United Arab Emirates, Crown Prince Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan.

Primakov handed him a personal message from Mikhail Gorbachev for the president of the United Arab Emirates, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al Nuhayyan, who is now in Egypt. Primakov informed the crown prince on the situation in the Soviet Union and reaffirmed the Soviet side's commitment to broader contacts with the Emirates.

From the Emirates the Soviet presidential envoy will go to Kuwait, Iran, and Turkey. Earlier he visited Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Arrives in Kuwait for Talks

LD1509143391 Moscow TASS in English 1420 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] New York September 15 TASS—Yevgeniy Primakov, the Soviet president's personal envoy, arrived in Kuwait today for a two-day visit.

At Kuwait international airport, the Soviet envoy told journalists that bilateral relations would be discussed during the forthcoming meeting with Amir al-Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP) news agency reports from the Emirate.

Having expressed hope that the talks would be fruitful, Primakov said he does not intend to ask financial aid from Kuwait for the Soviet Union.

"However, it is evident that relations between the two countries, particularly economic ones, should also develop actively following the Gulf war. The Amir of Kuwait agrees with this," AP quotes the Soviet presidential envoy as saying.

Apart from talks with Kuwaiti officials, Primakov is planning to tour oil derricks that had been set on fire by the Iraqis during the war.

Kuwait is the fourth country the Soviet envoy visits within the framework of this Middle East tour. He has already held talks with the leaders of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Primakov will go to Tehran on Tuesday.

Kozyrev Praises Declaration on Afghanistan

OW1309153591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 13 Sep 91

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As from 1st January, 1992 the Soviet Union and the United States will stop supplying arms to the warring parties in Afghanistan and they have undertaken not to increase supplies until then. The news as given on Friday 13th September in Moscow in a joint Soviet-American statement on Afghanistan by Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. [sentence as received] The statement also expresses the hope that the remaining Soviet prisoners of war will be released before the end of the year.

The Soviet special ambassador, Nikolay Kozyrev, called the statement "a break-through in policy towards Afghanistan". In a conversation vith a "DP" [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent he said that the most important feature of the statement was the firm intention to seek a political settlement, dialogue between the Afghan factions and in the long-run the cessation of hostilities.

Mr. Kozyrev said that the Soviet-American declaration was a logical development of and an attempt to bring to fruition the principles identified by the Secretary General of the United Nations in his statement on Afghanistan of 21st May, 1991. He expressed the hope that other nations, particularly the arms suppliers, would follow in the footsteps of the USSR and the United States, signatories of the Geneva Convention, and work on a practical level for a resolution to the Afghan problem. The next step forward is, according to Kozyrev, the establishment of a series of bilateral contacts, in particular between the USSR and Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and also with the Afghan opposition. He is hopeful that in the near future the United Nations will organise an international conference on Afghanistan in which the aforementioned countries and the warring Afghan factions will participate.

Mr. Kozyrev said that the USSR considers the release of Soviet prisoners of war to be one of the most important conditions for the normalisation of the Afghan situation and stressed that the Soviet Union was ready to take all necessary steps for the realisation of this aim. "We will put this case very firmly", he said. "The mujahidin must meet us half way and at the very least initially inform us of the names of those held prisoner and allow them to come to an independent decision about their future", he stressed.

Pankin, Afghan Ambassador Discuss POWs

LD1409151691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1354 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep (TASS)—USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin today received Mohammad Daud Razmyar, Afghanistan's ambassador in Moscow, at the latter's request.

The ambassador expressed gratitude for the Soviet Union's efforts to achieve a political settlement in Afghanistan, the result of which was the emergence of the joint Soviet-American statement. He stressed that this statement is regarded by the Afghans as an important step promoting the cessation of the war in their country.

In the course of the conversation, an exchange of views took place regarding further actions to speed up the process of a settlement on the basis of the provisions of the Soviet-American documents and of the 21 May 1991 statement of the UN secretary general.

Boris Pankin dwelt especially on the question of the liberation of Soviet prisoners of war who are in the hands of the Afghan opposition and noted that the Soviet side regards the solution of this problem as an important element of the political process connected with the unblocking of the Afghan conflict.

Mohammad Daud Razmyar assured the minister that the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan will do everything within its power to get Soviet people out of captivity.

Observer Views Afghan Cease-Fire Situation

LD1409055791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1448 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS international observer Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] [No dateline as received] The Soviet military aid to Kabul is estimated in the West as $4 billion per year. This is, of course, an exaggeration. For one thing, the equipment that is being sent to Afganistan is far from new. Many tanks and aircraft, as well as, incidentally, the notorious Scud missiles, are to be written off under the conditions of arms reduction. As to the American military aid, it is being implemented in close interaction with Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and other countries. Therefore, it is important that not only the United States, but also the above-mentioned sources of arms for the mujahidin, should also refuse to supply them with weapons. UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar will be insisting in Riyadh today that Saudi Arabia stop military aid to its Afghan customers. He had similar talks with Iranian leadership and with Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of Pakistan. Only then can the concept of a cease-fire become a reality.

Najibollah, president of Afganistan, welcomed the Soviet-American document; the most radical of mujahidin leaders Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Burhanuddin Rabbani, did the same. Such unanimity, however, does not mean that Peshawar is ready for a cease-fire and cessation of military operations as a whole. On the contrary, the leadership of the armed opposition, obviously, hopes that the joint decision by Moscow and Washington will weaken Kabul militarily, and will give the mujahidin a chance to resolve the Afghan issue by force. First, I am convinced that, in spite of certain difficulties for Kabul, this will not happen. Secondly, any attempt to increase confrontation in Afganistan will only bring about more sacrifices and losses to our neighbors in the south, who are exhausted by war.

Perez de Cuellar's Tehran Visit Assessed

NC1509113791 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1430 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The visit by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to the Islamic Republic of Iran has ended. His talks with the Iranian officials focused primarily on the full implementation of UN Resolution 598. Our commentator Aleksandr Dimitov writes:

First of all, I would like to recall some facts. Three years ago, the Iran-Iraq peace agreement that was based on UN Security Council Resolution 598 was signed with UN mediation. Even though many of the resolution's provisions have been implemented, some still exist only on paper. Let us see what is obstructing the final solution of the problems in Iran-Iraq relations.

The first problem is that the exchange of prisoners of war between the two countries has not been completed. According to International Red Cross estimates, about 80,000 Iranians and Iraqis returned to their homelands last year—but thousands of other helpless people continue to be held in captivity. During Perez de Cuellar's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran made a goodwill gesture and announced the unilateral release of 100 Iraqi prisoners of war. Baghdad, however, did not react to this initiative at all.

The problem of paying Iran war reparations for the losses it suffered during the war is yet another obstacle to the normalization of bilateral relations. According to preliminary estimates, the losses that have been inflicted amount to over $700 billion and Iran has started taking independent action because it does not expect to get any help from the international community in solving this problem. One of these steps calls for impounding the Iraqi planes that landed in Iran during the Kuwaiti crisis as war reparations. Various estimates have put the number of these planes between 30 and 150. Baghdad acknowledges the existence of the problem of reparations in principle and is making serious efforts for the return of the planes.

Iran also has unequivocally demanded that an independent international body be formed to make a decision on which side began the Iran-Iraq war.

Thus we see that there are extremely serious differences between Iran and Iraq, and UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's efforts to overcome even part of these differences during his visit to Tehran were not very successful. Iran is now making demands which are very hard to meet; in fact, meeting these conditions would practically be tantamount to Iraq's full diplomatic and political surrender to Tehran, and the current Iraqi leaders do not want this to happen.

West Europe

French Defense Minister's Moscow Visit Detailed

PM1309152591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 91 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "On a Visit to Moscow"]

[Text] P. Joxe, defense minister of the French Republic, arrived in the Soviet Union 11 September on an official visit at the invitation of Marshal of Aviation Ye.I. Shaposhnikov, USSR minister of defense.

The guest was met at Sheremetyevo Airport by Marshal of Aviation Ye.I. Shaposhnikov, Deputy Defense Ministers Colonel General V.M. Semenov, Col. Gen. of Aviation P.S. Deynekin, Col. Gen. V.P. Mironov, and other officials.

The welcoming party included B. Dufourcq, French ambassador to the USSR, and Brigadier Gen. B. Eli [name as transliterated], defense attache at the French Embassy in the USSR.

On 12 September Marshal of Aviation Ye.I. Shaposhnikov, USSR minister of defense, had a meeting with French Defense Minister P. Joxe, who is in the Soviet Union on an official visit.

Questions of the further development of cooperation between our countries, including in the military sphere, were examined during the talks, which were held in an atmosphere of frankness and mutual understanding. Problems of strengthening peace and security in Europe were discussed.

An agreement between the USSR Ministry of Defense and the French Republic Ministry of Defense on mutual contacts during 1992-1993 was signed.

On the same day the French defense minister laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin wall.

P. Joxe visited Zvezdnyy Gorodok, where he familiarized himself with the Cosmonaut Training Center.

Joxe Visits Military Academy

LD1309135291 Moscow TASS in English 1344 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Oleg Moskovskiy and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—The French Defence Minister Pierre Joxe visited today the Military Academy of the General Staff of the Soviet armed forces as part of his official visit to the USSR. He familiarised himself with the organisation of the teaching process in the academy which trains top-ranking officers for the Soviet Army.

Joxe praised the technical equipment of classrooms and especially admired an electronic simulator for practicing troop control. According to Joxe, it could be used not only in classrooms, but also for the improvement of the troop control process.

In the afternoon he will visit the Taman Motorised Rifle Division deployed in the Moscow region, where officers and men will show him the level of their combat preparedness.

Departs for Novosibirsk

LD1409164191 Moscow TASS in English 0837 GMT 14 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Leonid Timofeyev and Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—French Defence Minister Pierre Joxe has completed his visit to Moscow. During the three days of his stay in the Soviet capital, Joxe met with President Mikhail Gorbachev, And held talks wtih his Soviet counterpart, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov.

The talks resulted in the signing of an agreement between the defence ministries of the Soviet Union and France on mutual contacts in 1992-1993.

During the talks the French minister received assurances from the Soviet side that the Soviet Union's nuclear potential is under reliable control.

Joxe set out on a tour of the country this morning. He will visit Novosibirsk, the Baykonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, and Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan.

Silayev Assures EEC Leader on Debt Payments

LD1109212291 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Text] Ivan Silayev, head of the committee for operational management of the national economy, stated after his meeting with EEC leader and Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans Van den Broek that the financial obligations of the former Cabinet of Ministers to its Western partners are being guaranteed by the obligations of the new leadership and in the future also by the interrepublican economic committee. The republics will also honor the former government's obligations via the center, assured Silayev. As was learned by an INTERFAX correspondent from well-informed sources, Ivan Silayev has expresssed the opinion that the interrepublican economic agreement could be signed within a month. He has also reported that toward the end of September the committee for operational management will present the program for economic reform to the supreme leadership of the country.

On 10 September Ivan Silayev received Italy's Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis. Silayev briefed the Italian minister on the situation in the country and informed him that all the republics, even those which are not going to join the political union, have been seriously interested in a project of economic union. Silayev also said the problems of food and consumer goods supplies are especially acute now. This is not only an economic but a political problem for us, he stressed. In the course of the meeting, De Michelis informed Ivan Silayev that Italian Government is prepared to offer the USSR aid in the form of the credits of nearly $4 billion during the next few years.

De Michelis Says Italy Ready to Grant Credits

OW1309171991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 91

[From the "Business Weekly" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Italy is ready to provide the USSR with 5 trillion lires ($3.85 billion) in credits "over the next few years," said the Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis at his Tuesday meeting in Moscow with Ivan Silayev, chairman of the Committee for the Operational Management of the National Economy. Silayev assured de Michelis that "the Soviet authorities are making every effort to service foreign loans."

Italy's Andreotti Talks with Economic Official

LD1209221391 Moscow TASS in English 2143 GMT 12 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Teterin]

[Text] Rome September 13 TASS—Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti received Arkadiy Volskiy, deputy chairman of the Soviet Committee for Economic Management, here on Thursday.

Andreotti and Volskiy had a substantive talk during which they discussed in specific detail Soviet-Italian cooperation, primarily in the economic field, and prospects that open up in view of the new situation that has taken shape in the Soviet Union.

Some problems connected with the Soviet Union's integration into the system of world economic relations were touched upon during the meeting which was also attended by Anatoliy Adamishin, the Soviet ambassador to Italy.

Greek Bank Delays Opening Branch in Moscow

PM1609141791 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Sep 91 p 3

[TASS report under the general heading: "Russia and the World"]

[Text] Athens—The Greek National Bank has decided to postpone the opening of its Moscow branch. The bank's board said this in a statement published here. The decision was reportedly adopted "owing to the unstable political situation in the Soviet Union."

The opening of the Greek bank's first USSR branch had been scheduled for the end of this month.

Latin America & Caribbean

Pankin Comments on Troop Withdrawal From Cuba

LD1209145491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1420 GMT 12 Sep 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Konstantin Voytsekhovich, Sergey Postanogov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Sep (TASS)—The Soviet Union intends in the near future to enter into talks with the Cuban leadership on a stage-by-stage withdrawal of the Soviet training brigade, which is located on Cuba. This statement, which was made last Wednesday by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, was reaffirmed by Boris Pankin, USSR minister of foreign affairs, at a news conference today.

Although the presence of the Soviet brigade on Cuba does not present a threat to anyone and is mainly of a symbolic nature, he went on, this is "a symbol of a past epoch in international and Soviet-U.S. relations" of which we must rid ourselves.

The head of the Soviet foreign policy department noted that the Soviet side's gesture is of great importance in assisting the demilitarization of this region and its transformation into a zone of peace. He expressed the hope that such a gesture will promote the taking of further measures to lower tension around Cuba. "We are counting on this step helping to continue productive discussions with the U.S Administration on working out additional confidence measures regarding Cuba," the minister said.

The Soviet Union has set course toward a gradual reduction of military deliveries to Cuba and toward the transfer of cooperation in this area onto a commercial basis, Boris Pankin noted. Overall the USSR's cooperation with Cuba, including in the trade and economic field, will be carried out on normal, mutually advantageous conditions.

Speaking in greater detail at the request of journalists on confidence measures with regard to Cuba, the Soviet Minister stressed that the USSR counts upon the United States taking corresponding steps. In his opinion in the initial stage these steps could involve a reduction in the strength of U.S. Forces at the Guantanamo Base, a reduction in the number of calls there made by ships of the U.S. Navy, and advance announcement of maneuvers.

Havana Protests Gorbachev Decision on Troops

PM1309133891 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Union Edition p 1

[Evg. Bay report—final paragraph is IZVESTIYA editorial note: "Moscow Announces Withdrawal of Troops From Cuba. Havana Protests"]

[Text] M. Gorbachev's announcement of the forthcoming withdrawal of the Soviet military brigade from Cuba has become the number one news story for all news agencies. This announcement has been interpreted as evidence of a qualitative change in relations between Moscow and Havana—relations which had hitherto been a symbol of communist military might and once brought the world to the brink of nuclear war.

The Soviet president did not indicate the precise mumber of Soviet servicemen who are shortly to be withdrawn from the island, UPI comments. According to the agency's figures, in 1988 there were 12,700 Soviet citizens in Cuba. Of these 2,800 were soldiers, 2,800 military advisers, 2,100 were staffers of the KGB and military intelligence, and about 5,000 were civilian specialists.

The USSR, despite its difficult economic position, has been giving enormous support to Castro's government, UPI stresses. Prior to 1987 annual aid to Cuba totaled $4.5 billion. Cuba and the USSR maintained close trade relations. The overall volume of trade between them reached $14.5 billion a year.

Washington has been putting pressure on Moscow over a long period in order to compel the latter to curtail its military cooperation with the Castro government. During his visit to the USSR, U.S. President G. Bush publicly raised the question of the Cuban factor five times, describing it as an obstacle to mutual understanding between the Soviet Union and the United

States. Leading U.S. observers have indicated that while military support for Cuba continues, Moscow can hardly expect to receive substantial credits from the West.

"Gorbachev wanted to achieve the best conditions for the granting of aid," Antonio Jorge, leading specialist in Soviet-Cuban relations at the University of Florida, points out. "Cuba was a big obstacle, and Secretary of State J. Baker obviously gave the Soviet leader a chance to understand that conditions would be altered in the event of a 'solution' of the Cuban question."

However, there are also other opinions. In Washington, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, member of the House of Representatives and the first U.S. legislator of Cuban origin, has stated that, in order to secure large-scale U.S. economic aid, the USSR must do more than simply withdraw its brigade from Cuba. I think, she stated, that the U.S. Congress will not ratify plans for granting aid until the USSR ends all its economic support for the Castro regime, which includes deliveries of oil and petroleum products, and also technology and equipment.

Moscow has said nothing about the electronic spying station near Havana, Professor Jaime Sushliki [surname as transliterated], another expert from Miami, indicated, and so we have the right to speak of the maintenance of a significant USSR military presence in Cuba.

At the same time a number of specialists believe that the decision to withdraw troops from Cuba is part of a new policy on the part of the Soviet leadership, and not simply a concession to the United States. In view of this, the aforementioned Antonio Jorge suggests that President G. Bush will not put further pressure on Gorbachev in order to make the USSR pull out the civilian specialists remaining on the island.

The subject of military cooperation is undoubtedly highly topical. However, it is the discussion in December of this year of the prospects for Soviet-Cuban economic cooperation for the coming year that might be the critical point in Soviet-Cuban relations. During the visit to Moscow in early September of a Cuban opposition delegation from Miami, Russian officials assured them that subsidies to Cuba would be ended on expiry of the current agreement. They would be replaced by mutually advantageous relations based on world prices and trade exchanges in hard currency.

Such events could not but provoke an instantaneous reaction from Havana. REUTER's correspondent in Havana notes that Cuba's communist government has resolutely condemned the Soviet president's statement. This public condemnation, promulgated by the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reflected the qualitatively new, significantly cooler tone in relations between Moscow and Havana, REUTER comments.

In particular, the Castro government, which has several times stated that it "will never betray the ideals of communism," has openly accused Gorbachev of making the statement on the withdrawal of Soviet troops without preliminary consultations with the Cuban authorities. "This is unacceptable behavior, both from the point of view of international norms, and from the viewpoint of the treaties existing between the two countries," the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicates in the statement. The fact that the issue of the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo, in eastern Cuba, was not raised, publicly at least, during talks with J. Baker, has provoked especial dissatisfaction on the part of the Cuban authorities.

The statement, REUTER stresses, does not contain a single word of thanks to the USSR in return for the enormous military aid, including free deliveries of modern technology and ammunition and the training of personnel over three decades, which has enabled the partisan detachment which smashed the Batista dictatorship in 1959 to become one of the best equipped and largest armies in Latin America.

Gorbachev, the agency stresses, did not indicate whether Soviet-Cuban military cooperation would continue. The most likely event is that Soviet military aid to Castro will be completely wound up in the very near future.

[Editorial postscript] According to IZVESTIYA's information—our editorial offices were given this information by the Ministry of Defense—the Soviet training brigade in Cuba is a motorized infantry brigade. It consists of just over 3,000 men. The brigade's personnel is helping to train Cuban soldiers in general military specialities, training mechanics and drivers of tanks and infantry fighting vehicles, gun chiefs, gunners, signalers, scouts, topographers, and others.

Training Brigade in Cuba Celebrates Anniversary

LD1309160491 Moscow TASS in English 1439 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Sereda]

[Text] Havana September 13 TASS—This year the anniversary of the Soviet military training brigade in Cuba coincided with the decision of the Soviet president to return it home by several stages. This military training unit is deployed near Havana and is called the 12th Training Centre. Soviet journalists were allowed to visit it for the first time.

Many Cuban top-ranking officers, including Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, head of the General Staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, came to the training centre on Thursday to congratulate Soviet servicemen on the 29th anniversary of the centre. On the occasion of the anniversary Cuban soldiers and their Soviet teachers demonstrated their combat preparedness—hand-to-hand fighting and the handling of military hardware.

There is no secrecy about the stay of the Soviet training brigade in Cuba, Lieutenant Colonel Vyacheslav Bibikov, commander of the 12th Training Centre, told journalists. According to Bibikov, over the past 29 years the centre has been fulfilling the mission of training servicemen for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba.

The pointed terseness of the young lieutenant colonel is quite understandable: the situation in the USSR is changing so rapidly that the Soviet servicemen living thousands of kilometres away from their native land sometimes cannot keep up with all these developments.

Soviet journalists had an opportunity to talk with officers and men from the training brigade. It was clear from their short answers that they responded to the decision of the Soviet leadership as the military should: "We are accustomed to fulfill orders." In other words, if they receive such an order, they will return home at once by sea or by air.

In an evening news programme on Thursday Cuban television reported a press conference of Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, laying emphasis on his words that the Soviet Union expects reciprocal steps from the United States to reduce the strength of U.S. troops at the Guantanamo Base, reduce the number of calls of U.S. warships there and warn about military exercises beforehand.

Cubans interviewed in the streets of Havana express various views on the withdrawal of the Soviet training brigade. Some of them stress Cuba is capable of defending itself on its own. Others, the majority of those interviewed, express hope that irrespective of the situation in the Soviet Union, the long standing friendship between the Soviet and Cuban people will pass this test of strength.

Pankin Receives 'Rio Group' Envoys

LD1409195491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1358 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep (TASS)—Boris Pankin, USSR minister of foreign affairs, received the heads of the diplomatic representations of the Latin American countries which are members of the Rio de Janeiro group.

The ambassadors congratulated Boris Pankin in connection with his appointment to the post of USSR minister of foreign affairs. They handed over a statement by the "Rio Group" on the occasion of the recent events in the Soviet Union, in which satisfaction at the restoration of the constitutional and democratic order in the USSR was expressed. The Rio de Janeiro group evaluates highly the process of reforms and democratization begun by President Mikhail Gorbachev, and expresses the hope that it will be developed further in the interests of affirming the climate of diffusing international tension and of resolving the more topical international problems. The USSR minister of foreign affairs expressed gratitude to the "Rio Group" states for the solidarity they have shown to the Soviet people.

During the course of the conversation Boris Pankin informed the ambassadors of the main trends in the USSR's foreign policy and in particular, in relation to the Latin American countries, he stressed that the policy of the development of bilateral, mutually advantageous cooperation with them would remain unchanged.

A committed exchange of opinions took place on the development of the dialogue between the Soviet Union, Eastern European countries and the "Rio Group."

Congress of People's Deputies

People's Deputy on Supreme Soviet's Future

LD1209220691 Moscow TASS in English 0837 GMT 12 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Isachenkov]

[Text] Moscow September 12 TASS—The USSR Supreme Soviet (parliament) will play a formal and mostly decorative role in the system of bodies of power for the transition period, which are envisaged by resolutions of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies last week, says Arkadiy Murashev, secretary of the Inter-regional Group of people's deputies and one of the leaders of the Democratic Russia movement.

"The Soviet parliament will be a symbol of the continuity of power and the constitutional process. The preservation of the federal parliament will make it possible to carry out a smooth transition to a new form of the state setup," he told TASS.

According to Murashev, Russia has already begun to form a republican delegation to the USSR Supreme Soviet. Candidatures of the delegates are being discussed at the Russian parliamentary structures, the committees of the former federal parliament and the Inter-regional Group. "Our task is to ensure the representation of the leading political forces, regions and committees of the Soviet parliament," he pointed out.

The Russian parliament is to make a final decision on the composition of its delegation at the session that opens next week.

In accordance with the laws on bodies of power for the transition period, adopted by the Congress of USSR People's Deputies last week, the Soviet president will convene the next session of the federal parliament no later than October 2.

On the insistent suggestion of Gorbachev and leaders of the ten republics, the Congress of People's Deputies adopted resolutions rounding off the existence of the Soviet Union in its previous form. The congress announced the beginning of the transition period, which is to end with the signing of the Union treaty and the inter-republican economic agreement. Each republic will determine the form of its participation in the future union, choosing between the federal, confederate, or even associated type of relationship.

The Congress of USSR People's Deputies delegated its authority of the supreme body of state power to the USSR State Council, made up of leaders of the republics under the chairmanship of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, and to the USSR Supreme Soviet. Commenting on the resolutions adopted by the congress, observers immediately pointed out that the State Council would probably become a real authority, while the Supreme Soviet would play the symbolic role of the guarantor of constitutional stability.

Unlike the previous Council of Nationalities, elected by the population of the country through national-territorial constituencies, deputies will be delegated to the Council of Republics by republican parliaments. Republican parliaments will also play a decisive role in the formation of the second chamber, the Council of the Union, which will be made up of USSR people's deputies.

Political & Social

Gorbachev Provides Putsch Investigation Testimony

LD1409135491 Moscow TASS in English 1339 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—For two hours earlier in the day, President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union, as witness in the case concerning the State Committee on the State of Emergency, has been giving detailed answers to questions asked by the investigation.

This investigatory action was carried out by USSR Procurator-General Nikolay Trubin, Russia's Procurator-General Valentin Stepankov, and Aleksandr Frolov, deputy head of the USSR Procurator's Office Department for the investigation of cases of particular importance.

Gorbachev 'Sure of Himself'

LD1409171191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The questioning of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, the USSR president, lasted for about two hours in the Kremlin today. Frolov, one of the most experienced investigators in the country, carried it out in the presence of the USSR and Russian procurators general.

Stepankov, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic procurator general, said in an interview with a TASS correspondent: I saw before me a person who is really suffering because of the treachery of his comrades, but he has not lost his head—and judging by everything, he knows what he has to do. The president seems to be a person who is sure of himself.

The Russian procurator general noted that it is early to evaluate the evidence of Mikhail Sergeyevich. He does not rule out that the head of the Soviet state might have to be interrogated again in the interests of the investigation.

The investigation does not see the need to interrogate the USSR president's wife, Raisa Maximovna, or other members of the Gorbachev family, for the moment, said Stepankov.

Gorbachev Appoints New KGB Deputy Chairman

LD1309202191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1921 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (TASS)—By a decree issued by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, Major General Fedor Myasnikov was today appointed deputy chairman of the USSR Committee for State Security and head of the Main Directorate No. 2 of the USSR Committee for State Security.

Gorbachev Appoints New Deputy Interior Ministers

LD1409192791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1819 GMT 14 Sep 91

["Decree by the President of the USSR on Appointments to the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep (TASS)—Mikhail Gorbachev, the president of the USSR, today issued a decree "On USSR Deputy Ministers of Internal Affairs." With this decree Militia Major General Aleksandr Kulikov, Interior Service Colonel Vladimir Strashko, and Militia Major General Vitaliy Turbin are appointed USSR deputy ministers of internal affairs; and Militia Major General Igor Kozhevnikov is appointed USSR deputy minister of internal affairs and chief of the Main Investigation Administration.

By the same decree Interior Service Major General Valeriy Belyaninov, Interior Service Lieutenant General Nikolay Demidov, Interior Service Lieutenant General Leonid Sizov, and Interior Service Colonel General Vasiliy Trushin are released from their duties as USSR deputy ministers of internal affairs; Interior Service Major General Viktor Karpochev from his duties as USSR deputy minister of internal affairs and chief of the Main Administration for Personnel Work; and Lieutenant General Vitaliy Sidorov from his duties as USSR deputy minister of internal affairs and chief of the Main Investigation Administration.

Gorbachev Ends MVD Control of Moscow Police

OW1309172191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As IF's [INTERFAX] reporter has learnt at the USSR Interior Ministry's [MVD] Public Relations Department, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has annulled his own decree setting up the Main Interior Ministry Department for Moscow and the Moscow region. The new decree relieves the USSR first deputy interior minister of the duties of head of the Moscow police force.

The Moscow police will again be subordinated to the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Interior Ministry and the city mayor.

State Council Session Opens; Agenda Noted

LD1609102391 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0900 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] A USSR State Council session has started in Moscow under the chairmanship of the country's president, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. Taking part are members of the State Council: Yeltsin, President of Russia; Kravchuk, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine; Shushkevich, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Belorussia; Mutalibov, President of Azerbaijan; Akayev, President of Kyrgyzstan; Aslonov, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan; Ter-Petrosyan, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Armenia; Niyazov, President of Turkmenia; and Bugrov, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan. President Karimov of Uzbekistan is absent from the session because of illness. President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan is due to arrive a little later.

The following questions are on the agenda of today's session: The situation regarding food and measures for its stabilization in 1991-92; the draft treaty on economic union; the state of fundamental research in the country and measures for its maintenance during the transitional period. The State Council also intends to discuss: Draft regulations for a legal commission under the State Council; a draft law on border troops; the organization of an interrepublican committee for national education; the improvement of the system of nature conservation bodies at Union level; and also the provision of material sustenance for staff of internal affairs bodies. In addition, the USSR State Council plans to consider the problem of the administration of the nuclear energy complex; the situation in South Ossetia; a proposal to set up a committee under the USSR president for the affairs of Soviet Germans; and also the question of the fate of a collection of ancient Jewish books and manuscripts in the Lenin Library, in connection with claims to their ownership by religious leaders in the United States of America. As is known, the country's State Council is faced with discussing rather a large range of questions.

USSR, Republic Foreign Ministers Meet

LD1409135191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0615 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep (TASS)—Chaired by USSR Foreign Minister B.D. Pankin, the current session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the USSR and Union republics took place in Moscow on Friday.

Questions of the new forms and methods of interaction between the Union and republican foreign ministries in light of decisions made by the Fifth Extraordinary Congress of USSR People's Deputies were discussed as well as enhancement of the role the diplomatic departments should play in the maintenance of trade and economic ties with foreign states and the management of the appropriate foreign missions.

In the course of discussion specific views were put forward on the question of the foreign policy mechanism in which the Council of Foreign Ministers will play a key role. A decision was made to prepare a charter of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs which would give it official rights and authority in the shortest possible time. Structural measures are planned with the aim of ensuring its effectiveness and permanent working contacts between the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and those of the sovereign republics. Serious attention was given to the questions of provision of personnel for the diplomatic service and the training of highly qualified specialists.

G.M. Sadykhov (Azerbaijan), A.E. Yegizaryan (Armenia), A.Kh Arystanbekova (Kazakhstan), M.S. Imanaliyev (Kyrgyzstan), N.G. Osmokesku (Moldova), A.V. Kozyrev (RSFSR), L.K. Kayumov (Tajikistan), A.O. Kuliyev (Turkmenia), M.M. Aripjanov (Uzbekistan), and A.M. Zlenko (Ukraine) took part in the session of the council. Latvian Republic representatives Y. Peters and Y. Freimanis were present as observers.

Uzbek, Azeri Envoys on Meeting

LD1509094191 Moscow TASS in English 0922 GMT 15 Sep 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Pershin]

[Text] Moscow September 15 TASS—The Soviet Foreign Ministry can do much more than it does at present to ensure that the process of recognition of the former Soviet republics' sovereignty and independence proceed in keeping with international legal norms, Uzbekistan's deputy permanent envoy to Moscow Yuriy Zorin told TASS commenting on the meeting last Friday of the council of foreign ministers of the USSR and republics.

Zorin noted that talks "on such level and in such manner" marked a new step in relations between the centre and republics. He stressed that the republican foreign ministries should play a major role not only in shaping the country's foreign policy but also in its implementation.

For instance, Soviet trade missions in 56 foreign countries, to which Uzbekistan exports its products, have only two staffers from Uzbekistan, which is by far not enough, according to Zorin.

The personnel situation is similar in the Soviet foreign ministry.

Zorin said the high priority task in the field of acquiring true sovereignty by the republics on the world arena—a lengthy and complicated process at all times—is appointing diplomats from all republics as deputies of the Soviet Union's permanent envoy to the united nations.

Deputy permanent envoy of Azerbaijan to Moscow Manas Agayev told TASS that the council meeting heard not only requests for expanding the number of representatives of Soviet republics on the Soviet diplomatic staff but also raising their diplomatic ranks in adjacent countries taking into account old traditional ties. more representatives of republics should be sent to work on the staffs of international organizations as well, he said.

The leaders of the foreign ministries of Soviet republics, TASS was told by a trustworthy source, also demanded a redistribution of hard currency resources earmarked for ensuring foreign contacts in a way enabling republics to develop external relations on their own.

The principal claims extended by the republics were supported by the Russian foreign ministry. The centre, for its part, assured participants that "all the problems raised at the council meeting will be thoroughly examined, studied and resolved".

Pankin Approves Republics' UN Membership Bid

OW1409171191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The USSR foreign ministry has a positive attitude to the intention of "all our republics, sovereign states," to join the U.N., the new Soviet foreign minister Boris Pankin told IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent on Saturday. Nevertheless, he said, the USSR will continue to act as a single and united state in the "key" international organizations and institutions. According to B. Pankin, at Friday's session of the council of USSR and republican foreign ministers no one expressed doubt as to the fact that at the U.N. Security Council the country should be represented as a union of sovereign states. This also relates to international economic institutions. When determining the membership of Soviet missions and delegations to such organizations and appointing ambassadors the recommendations and proposals of republics will be taken into account, the USSR foreign minister said.

The collegium of the USSR foreign ministry decided that changes should also take place at Soviet economic missions abroad, said B. Pankin. At the moment they are "too large", and there is parallelism in their work, the minister said.

According to some experts, the staff of Soviet trade missions abroad might be reduced in the near future.

Pankin Interviewed on Foreign Ministry Collegium

OW1409175291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1718 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Boris Pankin by I. Poshnev, diplomatic correspondent, in Moscow on 14 September; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP) feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A meeting was held today, 14th September, of the Collegium of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Afterwards the Soviet Foreign Minister, Boris Pankin, gave an interview to "DP" and the "Vremya" news programme.

Mr. Pankin said that the Meeting of the Foreign Ministry Collegium should be viewed in connection with the meeting in Moscow on 13th September of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the union and the republics. He revealed that this meeting had dealt with questions of cooperation between union and republican foreign ministries and that very important decisions and recommendations regarding the distribution of powers between the union and republics had been made. In particular it was decided to appeal to the USSR State Council to constitute the Council of Foreign Ministers and accord it the powers of supreme diplomatic organ of the Soviet Union. This decision would, in Mr. Pankin's view, enable the diplomatic service to get on with its day to day work.

Recalling the Foreign Ministry Collegium's decision last Saturday to resign en masse, Mr. Pankin said that the Foreign Minister had been "given a free hand to appoint a new collegium". And this he did on 14th September. It is now comprised of the deputy foreign ministers and the heads of "the most important departments" and, he said, is looking "a lot younger". It is now made up of modern-thinking, competent people who acquitted themselves well during the crisis period.

The Foreign Minister revealed that both the CFM meeting and the Collegium thought it a good idea to invite several of the country's important public and political figures to join the Foreign Ministry Collegium. Among the names mentioned were those of the poet Olzhas Suleymonov, well known for his calls for the prohibition of nuclear testing and for the closure of the Semipalatinsk testing site, Academician Aleksey Yablokov, a leader of the green movement, Andrey Sebentsov, a peoples' deputy and leader of the "human rights movement" on the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Vladimir Lukin, the President of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federate Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet's Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Trade Contacts. Mr. Pankin said that all of these candidates had been approved by both the CFM and the Foreign Ministry Collegium and would, if they agreed, be co-opted onto the Collegium.

With the new functions of the CFM, presided over by the Soviet Foreign Minister, defined, the Collegium will become the collective organ of the leadership of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At its meeting on 14th September it took a number of decisions changing the internal structures of the ministry and its overseas departments.

As far as the basic aims of the nation's diplomatic service are concerned, Foreign Minister Pankin said they were already fairly clearly defined. He cited as examples the CSCE Moscow Human Rights Conference, negotiations with the Americans which have resulted in moves towards a solution of the Afghan issue and the Cuban problem and the calling of a Middle East peace conference, and bi-lateral relations between the Soviet Union and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. All this demonstrates the direction in which the Soviet Foreign Ministry should be transformed, he stressed.

The Foreign Minister said that a CFM Executive Secretariat was to be established, based on the Union Republics Department of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It will be "a new kind of establishment" which will allow the close coordination of union and republican foreign ministry activity at all levels, he said. In addition, it was suggested that a Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Union Republics be established. (The Committee will probably be based in the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs building on Smolensk Square).

Mr. Pankin said that the issue of the representation of individual union republics abroad was also discussed at the meetings of both CFM and the Collegium and that many possibilities existed. According to the constitution, any republic has the right to open a mission in another country with that country's agreement. However, this would obviously not be the case. The republican foreign ministries had proposed that at first they should have their own plenipotentaries within the existing embassies and the USSR Foreign Ministry shares this opinion.

Mr. Pankin pointed out that specific interests of the republics will be taken into account during the consideration of candidates for plenipotentiaries. For example, it would be logical to take into account interests of the republics neighbouring to the Middle East countries while appointing ambassadors to these countries.

The Minister said that proceeding from the decisions of the last Congress of USSR People's Deputies, the USSR Foreign Ministry favors membership in the U.N. of "all republics—sovereign states which would be interested in it". "Obviously, that will happen", he noted. At the same time, the Union will continue to participate in "key" international organizations and institutions as a unique state. In Mr. Pankin's words, nobody at the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers expressed doubts that the Union of Sovereign States should be represented in the U.N. Security Council, as well as in international economic institutions. However, Mr. Pankin said, while determining the makeup of Soviet representations at these institutions and appointing ambassadors, individual recommendations and proposals of the republics will be taken into consideration.

Mr. Pankin said that under the decisions of the Collegium of the USSR Foreign Ministry, Soviet economic representations abroad are to undergo cetain changes. "They are too large" and they frequently perform the same functions. According to Mr. Pankin, the staff of Soviet trade representations abroad will be considerably reduced.

The Minister also said that the Collegium had taken a decision to reform the entire personnel service. "The Board of Personnel should be transformed from the body frequently assuming the authorities of ambassadors and even of the Collegium into an auxiliary tool for dealing with personnel problems", he noted. He also said that from now on candidates for ambassadors will be considered and approved jointly by the Council of Foreign Ministers and the USSR Foreign Ministry. Mr. Pankin reminded about his recent decision to dismiss all KGB servicemen working in the USSR Foreign Hinistry's Board of Personnel". "The KGB must not be engaged in forming the personnel", he added.

The Minister announced plans to review the present questionnaires and to remove from these all questions aimed at determining "trustworthiness" of its employees. In the words of Mr. Pankin, questionnaires should contain only questions aimed at revealing competence and professionalism of a diplomat.

Asked about the main guidelines of the USSR Foreign Ministry's activities, Mr. Pankin emphasized that these have already been determined. Among them the Moscow Human Rights Conference and the talks with the USA on the settlement of the Afghan problem and on Cuba. Mr. Pankin also pointed out positive shifts concerning the Middle East peace conference and the improvement of relations between the USSR and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. All that shows the main directions of further transformation of the USSR Foreign Ministry, he stressed.

Bakatin Says Political Prisoners MVD Affair

LD1409102191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2030 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Interview with KGB Chairman Vladimir Bakatin by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; a "TV-TASS" production; from the "Television News Service" program—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] What is your position? Does the KGB today have internal and external enemies? If so, who are they?

[Bakatin] These enemies are people who violate our criminal code. That is one thing. Especially those high-ranking people who, say, take bribes while in state posts. I would not like to use the word enemies, you know, but at least it is those who are working against society. Society should defend itself against them.

[Correspondent] In a recent news conference Yelena Bonner asserted that we still have political prisoners. One of my journalist colleagues telephoned me fom Perm and said that one political prisoner had been released. He had been given an amnesty by the president of Kazkhstan. Are you aware of the fate and, so to speak, the documents of those who are there? What fate awaits them in the near future?

[Bakatin] A certain proportion of people remained in confinement who had been charged under two, three or four articles, including general criminal articles and articles which determine those who are or are not political prisoners. There were about 15 or 16 people, previously. This is a question not for the KGB but for the Interior Ministry]MVD] because it is the Interior Ministry which deals with all of these gulags or GUVDs [Chief Administration of Internal Affairs], as they are now called. Therefore, all of those lists are there.

KGB 6th Directorate Chief on Economic Security

LD1409220491 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Interview with Nikolay Alekseyevich Shtam, deputy chairman of the USSR KGB, and with Yu.V. Tikhomirov, department chief, by unidentified correspondent, place and date not given; from the "Vremya" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] [video shows clip of KGB Deputy Chief Shtam, then shown in interview with correspondent at desk, map of the world in the background, Tikhomirov seated beside him, room with files, microfiche room, computer operations room] Nikolay Alekeseyvich Shtam, deputy chairman of the USSR KGB, is 50 years old and has been in the organization for 25 years. By education he is a mechanical engineer. He began in the Committee as a delegated member of a flying squad [opero-upolnomochenyy]. He is now a major general. For the first time he has allowed filming in the laboratory and operational archives of the Sixth Directorate of the USSR KGB, which deals with economic security. Apparently nobody in the country receives such a volume of information on the state of affairs in the economy. The methods of analysis which have been developed, and the conclusions, are of undoubted value. In his first interview, which he gave to the "Vremya" program, Nikolay Alekseyevich said:

[Shtam] I see the primary task which I am faced with as regulating the flow of information on the more key problems of our life—especially in the sphere of our economy, which on the one hand, would be marked by objectivity and thorough study, and which would also contain some useful recommendations.

[Correspondent] Will you continue to be responsible for economic questions?

[Shtam] That cannot yet be said unequivocally. Why? Because the most serious preparation is under way now for changes, for structural changes, in the organization, functions, and tasks. [video shows document on Shtam's desk in close-up]

[Correspondent] Do you mean that the Committee for State Security may lose that service altogether? [telephone rings]

[Shtam] Well, I wouldn't want to say such a thing. Why? Because it seems to me that it would be desirable for our society to have such a service. [video fades out interview, music plays, blue background covers screen, caption comes up which reads "Economic Forecast"]

It is difficult to forecast that. [as heard] But in our view, well, these centrifugal trends will not lessen but, on the contrary, they will grow stronger.

[Tikhomirov] Recently, we have been dealing less and less with forecasts of threats to the state security of our country, and have been obliged to investigate to a greater and greater extent the situation in the sphere of the national economy. And well, the system of threats to the population's social life, the uncontrolled growth of prices in the state and cooperative sectors of trade, uncertainty for the population in questions of competent measures, seems to be the determining factor, in our view. That is already giving rise to such social, so to speak, processes among the working part of the population which may be, or are fraught with social explosives. Further, the imbalance in the consumer market was sanctioned—it will continue because there is a real fall in production in all sectors. The state of the populations's fuel and energy provision gives rise to our particular concern. If one speaks of other crisis phenomena, the influence of the shadow economy undermines very seriously the population's balance of payments. The breaking up or rupture of economic ties reinforces that trend.

'Vremya' Interviews Kalugin on Reinstatement

LD1509045491 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Interview with retired KGB Major General Oleg Danilovich Kalugin by Radio Liberty correspondent (Mark Deych) on 14 September; place not given; from the "Vremya" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [(Deych)] Oleg Danilovich, a decree by the USSR president has returned to you everything that was taken from you illegally earlier. Both of these acts are the willful decisions of the same person. Perhaps you should not agree to his favors but should obtain, nevertheless, a legal decision? A legal precedent would be set.

[Kalugin] The willful decision of the president and of former Prime Minister Ryzhkov was based upon disinformation that Kryuchkov, the chairman of the KGB, presented to him. He engaged in this for several years. Incidentally, he thereby placed the present leadership of the country in a very awkward situation. The fact that it relied upon information from Kryuchkov, and the KGB which systematically dished up to it tendencious and often simply slanderous information on figures of the democratic movement, including me, as critics of our system, that, alas, led to these illegal decisions. Yes, the decisions were illegal. They didn't have any legal basis. But there is no point in being at law now, after all. I am glad that the leaders of the country, in the person of Gorbachev, have admitted their mistake. And incidentally, it does them honor that they admitted their mistake and put it right. I think that they will learn the appropriate lessons and draw the proper conclusions from what happened to me in particular and to those people who were or who may still end up in a situation in which illegal actions are committed with regard to their rights and freedoms as a result of their open, public critical addresses.

[(Deych)] Last night you returned from Krasnodar Kray, whose inhabitants have entrusted you with the mandate of USSR people's deputy. I have learned that a petition is being gathered now appealing for you to be appointed governor of the kray. And so, will retired USSR KGB Major General Oleg Kalugin become the governor of Krasnodar Kray?

[Kalugin] Well, let's begin with the fact that by a decree of President Yeltsin, Vasiliy Nikolayevich Dyakonov has been appointed head of the administration of Krasnodar Kray. So the post is already occupied. That's number one. In the second place, honestly speaking, it's not my ambition to occupy the post of leader of Krasnodar Kray, even given all the love I have for this kray, and for the people who entrusted me with the post of deputy. At the same time, if elections ever are announced in the kray, and to date that question is hanging in the air, and if there is really a movement among the population of the Kuban, among my electorate, to put me forward as a candidate for this post, I will examine it seriously and will then take the relevant decisions. But I think that this is a bit premature just now.

KGB Reports Successes Against Organized Crime

PM1609083191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Aug 91 Second Edition p 2

[Report by USSR KGB Public Relations Center: "At the USSR KGB"]

[Text] The USSR KGB is collaborating with organs of the prosecutor's office and internal affairs in purposeful work to identify and stop the activities of organized criminal groupings in the sphere of the Soviet economy. Great importance is attached to further strengthening sections combating organized criminal groups, above all those operating in the area of foreign economic relations, and to stopping the activities of corrupt, mafia, and other criminal elements who are in contact with criminals abroad.

During the processing of the group of people who had formed the "Soyuz" foreign trade association and were engaged in the speculative resale of imported goods, it was discovered that they had been salting away massive profits. As a result, income of 108.5 million rubles [R] was returned to the state budget.

The prosecutor's office of Moscow's Oktyabrskiy Rayon has instituted criminal proceedings against a group of employees of the USSR Academy of Sciences, the "Alfa" cooperative, and the Soviet-American "Sovtek" joint venture, who had been stealing expensive laser crystals and active components. During the investigation they were found to be in possession of foreign weapons and ammunition.

The investigation is nearly completed in connection with the criminal proceedings brought against a number of former workers of the "Vostokintorg" All-Union Foreign Trade Association, who are accused of abusing office, making fraudulent returns, and giving and taking bribes. The damage done to the state by the criminals amounts to R247 million. Charges have been brought against four people and three of them have been arrested.

On 2 July the rayon court in Moscow's Sokolnicheskiy Rayon began hearing the case against five leaders of the so-called "Solntsevskaya grouping"—an organized crimninal group that had been engaged in extortion for a long time. Money and valuables worth more than R500,000 were confiscated from the criminals and have been returned to the state.

On the basis of state security organs' materials, 157 criminal cases have been brought and are being examined, including 25 by KGB or KGB administration investigation departments, 42 by Internal Affairs Ministry organs, and 90 by prosecutor's office organs. Around 150 people have been arrested. The court examination of 26 cases has been completed. Over 80 people have been sentenced to various jail terms. Some R30 million, $350,000, and 500,000 marks were confiscated from the criminals and turned into state income. Damage totaling around R100 million, five million foreign currency rubles, and 600,000 marks was prevented.

An analysis of available materials shows that the illegal activites of organized criminal groups in the economic sphere consist mainly in stealing state or public property by means of misappropriation, embezzlement, and abuse of office. Instances of thefts of metal, timber, gold, petroleum products, and construction materials are still tending to increase, and there has been a sharp increase in the number of thefts of consumer goods and food. Over 25 percent of crimes are connected with the illegal transfer abroad of raw materials, supplies, and finished products that require licenses. The conclusion of contracts with foreign firms for material rewards to the detriment of the Soviet side is becoming a widespread practice.

In the activities of one in three organized criminal groups corrupt links have been traced between the robbers and representatives of state, economic, and law-enforcement organs at various levels. Officials of state enterprises are actively involved in criminal activities in the economic sphere. In 1990 two-thirds of economic crimes were connected with the activities of cooperatives or joint ventures with foreign firms, but today state enterprise officials already account for over one-half of all crimes.

Shadow economy dealers have established criminal links with the staff of banking institutions for the purpose of illegally obtaining credits to finance their activities, turning checks into cash, and laundering funds obtained by criminal means, and nonstate banking structures are providing wide scope for criminal activity.

It has been discovered that shadow economy dealers are essentially setting up criminal associations of legally independent enterprises, institutions, and cooperatives in order to widen the scale of illegal activity and make it harder for state organs to monitor it.

Barannikov Warns Kostash on Dnestr Dispute

OW1409184391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] USSR Interior Minister Viktor Barannikov believes that his Moldavian counterpart Ion Kostash wants to "entangle the entire interior ministry network in confrontation between the various political forces and use the police potential for purposes that have nothing to do with maintaining law and order or ensuring security". V. Barannikov expressed his viewpoint on Saturday in his cable sent to I. Kostash in answer to his message which had qualified the recent conference between the leaders of the USSR interior ministry and Dnestr republic deputies as "direct interference in the affairs of a sovereign and independent state".

V. Barannikov described the Moldavian interior ministry's interpretation of the conference in Moscow as clearly tendentious.

He warned I. Kostash against "taking erroneous steps or making hasty unsubstantiated statements" which are not conducive to strengthening order or combating crime and which are detrimental to cooperation and mutual understanding.

Gidaspov Involvement in Coup Attempt Established

LD1509005891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Correspondent Gennadiy Vinogradov reports that on 13 September, during the meeting of the Leningrad Soviet Presidium, the leaders of the deputies' workers commission for the investigation into the circumstances of the coup d'etat on Leningrad's territory were heard. It was noted that circumstances promoting the implementation of the coup on the part of Boris Gidaspov, first secretary of the CPSU obkom and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, have been established. In particular, on 20 August Gidaspov gave instructions for all secret documents of the fourth sector of the general department to be destroyed and this was carried out. Not only all correspondence of the CPSU Central Committee and the Russian Communist Party Central Committee, registers, ciphers, and codes were destroyed, but also the instructions themselves of the CPSU Central Committee for the destruction of secret documents. The final report of the commissions will be submitted to the next Lensovet session on 30 September. At the Presidium meeting the city soviet decided to hand over Kazan cathedral to the religious orthodox community of this cathedral.

Pre-Putsch Remarks on Coup Possibility Cited

914B0366D Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 34, Aug 91 p 5

[Excerpts from past issues of ARGUMENTY I FAKTY: "The Prediction That Came True Anyway"]

[Text] **People are now saying that the time for the coup that took place on 19-21 August had come long ago. Analyzing the situation over 1.5-2 years, one can find quite a few confirmations of this. Many people were alarmed—from politicians to fortune tellers. But at the same time many of those who not only felt, but even knew, denied the possibility of a coup. In order to be convinced of this, let us leaf through the pages of last year's issues of ARGUMENTY I FAKTY.**

The time (of the coup—ed.) chosen will be when the people are disenchanted with the results of the policy conducted by the apparatus... By that time the situation created in the country will be such that the economy cannot escape from the impasse without extreme measures...

...People of the most diverse convictions will be asking for one thing: protection. Protection can be given to them in the form of tanks on the streets, a curfew, and suppression of all free expression of will.

(S. Andreyev. "The Prediction Which Must Not Come True," No. 29, 1989

During peace time the Soviet Army should be relieved of state functions that do not properly belong to it.

(V. Bakatin. "Police and the Society," No. 28, 1989)

[Question] As a professional military person do you think that a military coup is possible in the country? Could the Army take the power into its own hands.

[Answer] I think we can rule out a military coup in our country. But nonetheless the process taking place in society today, the process of transferring power to the soviets, is extremely slow and difficult. And as a professional military person I would do everything in my power to help the soviets take power.

[Question] Right down to threatening to use weapons?

[Answer] I would not put it that way. I think that the military, taking advantage of the Army's authority, which will be preserved in society in any case, should insist that the power be placed in the hands of the people as soon as possible.

("What Will the Army of the Nineties Be Like?", interview with Lieutenant Colonel V. Durnev, No. 8, 1990)

[Question] We are living in a time of rumors. The most terrible of them, not counting the end of the world, is the one about the possibility of a military coup. You are a combat officer who enjoys well-deserved respect among the military and, it seems to us, in our society. Strange as it may seem, it is your name (according to the rumors) that figures as the military person capable of leading such a coup.

[Answer] I have already heard about that. I do not think that circulating such rumors is exactly wise. I love my homeland and my people no less and possibly more than others, and I know the true price of the blood of our soldiers and of any human being. What kind of coup can there be? I repeat once again: This is completely unsubstantiated stupidity or perhaps also the policy conducted by certain circles for which, under the conditions of perestroyka, the Army is like a bone stuck in their throat.

(From an interview with B. Gromov, No. 12, 1990)

[Question] In the opinion of Nadir, during 1993-1994 humankind will experience great catastrophes—...random outbreaks of social tension on national soil and so forth. And what are your predictions?

[Answer] According to the calculations of our specialists, the periods of activation of random natural forces will come in 1991 and 1998.

(From an interview with Candidate of Physical-Mathematical Sciences I. Yanitskiy, No. 24, 1990)

While going through the embryonic stage of forming political organizations and growing to the point of forming people's fronts, the activity of the citizens has led to the creation of parties that exist along with the CPSU.

In this connection, the scenario for development in the near future appears as follows:

With small (or large) adjustments, the government program of the Supreme Soviet will be approved in the third or tenth reading, guided by the notion that "there is no alternative to the market." From that moment on, chaos will break out and the people's dissatisfaction will increase. As before, the bureaucracy will place the country's president in a hopeless position: It will be necessary to impose order with a "firm hand" or to let go of the reins and be oriented toward automatic regulators of the market economy. The second variant is clearly unacceptable for the president because of the logic and style of his thinking and his personal qualities. More likely, the path of pressure from top to bottom will be chosen—there is no point in discussing the means of applying pressure here.

In such a situation, paradoxical as it may be, there is a real chance of toppling the bureaucratic system. It can be toppled by diverting the people's dissatisfaction into a constructive channel.

(S. Andreyev. "The Prediction, Which...Will Come True?" No. 25, 1990)

[Question] Do you rule out the possibility of military intervention?

[Answer] Undoubtedly. Tanks will not help here. We already have enough wisdom not to repeat that. You should have no doubt about that.

From an interview with Ye. Ligachev, No. 12, 1990)

[Question] If the president decides that it is necessary to declare a state of emergency in the republics what will be the KGB's role in it?

[Answer] The KGB is included in the executive power, and if we have appropriate instructions (and they would undoubtedly be of a legal nature) the KGB will play its role.

(From an interview with V. Kryuchkov, No. 52, 1990)

[Question] It has become known from unofficial sources that in the Moscow air defense and other military units, including those under the KGB, a total of 83,000, were transferred immediately (to Kubinka and Kuskovo). Is this true?

[Answer] That question is like the last one. And the answer will be the same: There were no and are no KGB troop movements in the Moscow area.

(From an interview with KGB Major General A. Karbaynov, No. 3, 1991)

[Question] This year, along with the CPSU, the democrats were also marking time.

What happens in such cases?

[Answered] History gives us the answer: A new force is appearing. This is what E. Shevardnadze spoke about—totalitarianism, a dictatorship... The people coming to power are the ones who at rallies promise everything good and declare that they are pure, that they have nothing to do either with the conservatives or with the democrats, that they are the ones who will save the country.

(From an interview with G. Popov, No. 29, 1991)

FROM THE EDITORS. As you can see, many did not believe in the possibility of a coup. But we persistently continued to ask the same question because we felt deep down that there was alarm in the air and that we should not let down our guard. And now that the feeling of victory is prevailing over all other feelings, we must not lapse into euphoria. The battle is still ahead of us.

Analyst Views Plan for Economic Aid to USSR

LD1509211791 Moscow TASS in English 1623 GMT 15 Sep 91

[By TASS international news analyst Gennadiy Petrov]

[Text] Moscow September 15 TASS—Now that large-scale economic aid to the Soviet Union has become one of the most topical tasks of world politics, what is of importance in this respect is how this support could be in practice rendered most effective for Soviet reforms and at the same time be the least burdensome for donor countries. The problem is being complicated by the fact that eastern Europe, too, still needs large financial injections.

It seems that the most acceptable formula under these conditions is a plan for tri-partite cooperation, put forward several months ago by Jiri Dienstbier, deputy head of the Czechoslovak federal government and minister of foreign affairs. The project envisages Western funding of part of Soviet purchases of food in Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia.

Although the attractiveness of this plan is evident (east European farm products are much cheaper than west European ones and, therefore, the USSR could import a larger amount of them, Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia would restore the huge market for the sale of farm produce, and, finally, some Western partners, such as France, in particular, would not fear an influx of cheap food to their markets from the east), the Dienstbier-suggested idea was apparently cold-shouldered in Moscow at that time.

It is logical to suppose that "hawks" in the then Soviet leadership stubbornly tried to punish new leaders of former "fraternal countries", even at the price of the tightening of belts by Soviet people. At present, following changes brought about by the August events, Moscow's approach to Dienstbier's plan can and must change.

In this connection, the decision by the European Community (EC) to grant credits to the Soviet Union for the purchase of food in Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary, announced by Peter Ankert, state secretary of the Netherlands Foreign Ministry, seems timely.

Such an intention was expressed in Amsterdam recently at a meeting of the foreign ministers of EC countries.

Prior to that, Jacques Delors, president of the Commission of the European Communities, had asked two billion U.S. dollars from industrially developed countries for the purchase of food for the Soviet Union precisely in Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia.

Thus the removal of one of political obstacles to the practical solution to the problem of aid to Soviet reforms opens up a prospect of obvious advantages for each of the three cooperating sides.

Poll Shows Public Favors Unlimited Incomes

OW1609074191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0618 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From "Viewpoint"; Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the "Data" News Agency, an opinion poll taken by the National Public Opinion Studies Center in July among 3,003 respondents throughout the country showed that 56% think the state should by no means limit growth of incomes of individuals.

1/3 of those polled believe the state should control the incomes. Of them, 17 favor more or less equal incomes.

8% fear the emergence of millionnaires in the country and want incomes to be limited.

8% would like to return to the past times of egalitarianism.

13% found it difficult to answer whether the state should limit growth of incomes.

Margin of error - 3%.

USSR Anti-Monopoly Law Published

914A0999A

For this law published in the 26 July 1991 IZVESTIYA, see the JPRS Report Soviet Union: Economic Affairs, JPRS-UEA-91-032, dated 2 August 1991, pp 2-7.

USSR Foreign Investment Legislation

914A0953A

For this legislation published in the 25 July 1991 IZVESTIYA, see the JPRS Report Soviet Union: Economic Affairs, JPRS-UEA-91-032, dated 2 August 1991, pp 15-20.

Media & Journalism

Yakovlev Proposes Reform of TV First Channel

LD1309190991 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Report by V. Skvortsov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Today Yegor Yakovlev, the new chief of Central Television, spoke of the prospects for reform of the first channel. It is proposed that independent studios be set up on the first channel which will sell their programs to the company.

Next year, considerable changes are expected in the radio broadcasting network also. In particular, the number of short news bulletins throughout the day is being increased.

The August events showed the need for the establishment of a system of information security. The Council of Guarantors that is being created and in which well-known public figures will take part will guarantee the objectivity of information, Yakovlev believes.

The question of the financing of Central Television remains unresolved, as before.

[Correspondent Yuriy Rostov] In the 15 years I have spent on the first channel, the practical impossibility of radical reform of Central Television has become obvious to me. A new television service can be formed only once the existing structures are dissolved, which, incidentally, were in fact preserved in the course of all the previous transformations. For that, for instance, a central television news service must really be set up anew.

Yakovlev Denies Canceling '600 Seconds' Program

LD1509063591 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2130 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Here are two reports relating to television. Yegor Yakovlev, the chairman of the All-Union Television and Radio Company, categorically stated that he had nothing to do with the closure of the "600 Seconds" program. He phoned the "600 Seconds " program after reading in the SEM DNEY weekly an interview with Nevzorov who linked the closure of the program with Yakovlev's appointment. Having demanded that the staff of the program provide an explanation with regard to falsification of facts, Yakovlev, however, did not deny that he considers it inappropriate that Aleksandr Nevzorov should appear on the television screen. This was reported by the SEVERO-ZAPAD news agency.

Here is another report by this agency. The future career of Boris Petrov, the former chairman of the St. Petersburg Radio and Television Company, is being decided upon at present. Yegor Yakovlev has offered him the post of the chairman of a commercial television company which is being currently set up in St. Petersburg.

New TASS Director Favors 'Structural Changes'

LD1409100191 Moscow TASS in English 0743 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—Vitaliy Ignatenko, general director of the Soviet news agency TASS, who was appointed to the post after the coup, favours a radical reorganisation of the Soviet Union's major news agency.

In an interview published in today's PRAVDA, he said "considerable structural changes" will be needed. With this end in view, several special creative think-tanks have been set up, he added.

All desks publishing special news bulletins have been closed down, Ignatenko said. "From now on we shall have no secrets. The broadest spectrum of information will be available for news desks, journalists, and readers," he pointed out.

The TASS general director said the news agency will not have two separate news services (for foreign and domestic consumption) and reported cutting down some inefficiently operating correspondents' offices abroad.

Speaking about TASS relationship with other news agencies, Ignatenko said relations with foreign news agencies develop quite well. TASS has permanent contacts with almost 50 foreign news agencies.

"Domestically, we are yet to establish contacts with newly emerging news organisations", he observed.

Correspondent Laments Situation at Central TV

LD1609052191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Report by correspondent A. Denisov; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] How many socialist competitions have we had in our country over the last 70 or so years! For the front-ranking banner... in order worthily to greet... in order to fulfill ahead of schedule.... Suburbs and factories, towns and even whole republics were in competition. And instead of paying people money, the state gave them a new jacket as an incentive, or a length of material, a pair of spare boots, or a fancy certificate. Just be patient, we were told. We'll build a bright communist future, and we'll have everything! And people believed it, and patient they were. And so our whole life gradually turned into an endless, exhausting subbotnik. The number of records grew, but there were fewer and fewer goods. On the other hand, there were more and more people wanting to tell how they helped Lenin carry the plank [reference to famous incident where Lenin joined in work, and carried a plank at a shock construction site]. Just as today the number of people who manned the barricades at the White House is growing daily. Setting records and holding meetings is always easier and more profitable than simply working.

Alas! The spirit of socialist competition has turned out to be uncommonly tenacious. True, now front-ranking workers are given incentives not in the form of jackets and boots, but in the form of the First Program of Central Television. With Bolshevik determination, the new television management has over the course of two weeks experimented on millions of television viewers, dividing the journalists of TSN and the Vremya progam into ours and theirs, into democrats and conservatives. As a result, the whole competition has boiled down to who can most democratically frighten the viewers with all kinds of terrors and sensations. [Video shows TSN logo, clip of a demonstration, clip of newsreaders Yuriy Rostov, unidentified male, Flyarkovskiy, Tatyana Mitkova, footage of fighting in Croatia on newsroom monitor]

But it has indeed demonstrated that our television has remained just as poverty stricken, indigent, and amateurish as it was under the previous authority. We have a huge amount of obsolete technology, many things are in short supply. Journalists line up to make their reports. Compared to television companies abroad, we are living in the Stone Age, without computers, data banks, or electronic archives. Both television buildings have been described by a state commission as ecologically dangerous to health. There are neither copper covers nor darkened windows against radiation and high frequencies. Video engineers and technicians working on night shifts are forced to take their statutory two hours' rest wherever they can: on chairs or improvised cots. Their night-shift wage supplement is simply insulting: 20-30 rubles a month. Rats, mice, and cockroaches have long been running about in the snack bars and cafeterias, and coffee is served in thick glasses. Television has no money to buy interesting films and programs, and no one knows anyway who will finance it.

Yet we are once again being called upon to heroic shock labor! We'll build a bright democratic future, they say, and we'll have everything. But today people do not want to be either Reds or Whites, democrats or communists. They are weary of competitions and simply want to work and earn money. But while their lives and working conditions are brutal, we shall continue to compete for who has the better rags. And yet it would be interesting to know what pennant has been promised to the winners of the latest socialist competition. [Video shows control rooms, studios, corridors, filing cabinets, people asleep on chairs pushed together, sausage sandwiches, Vremya editorial office, tape decks, lockers]

TASS Reviews 14 Sep Central Press

LD1409095591 Moscow TASS in English 0551 GMT 14 Sep 91

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—Today's newspapers give prominence to a joint Soviet-U.S. statement on Afghanistan. PRAVDA runs the full text of the statement without comment. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) points out that the United States and the Soviet Union have mapped out a programme of measures for a political settlement of one of protracted and bloody conflicts.

The newspaper quotes Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin as saying that joint steps will promote the start of an inter-Afghan negotiating process and should lead to a pause and then full termination of hostilities.

The Soviet Union's Afghan war is over, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (Independent Gazette) writes in this connection.

Newspapers carry a statement by President Najibollah of Afghanistan who regards the news from Moscow approvingly and with undisguised satisfaction.

G. Yastrebtsov, in an article in PRAVDA, reflects on whether in our troubled times an economic union is possible without political conditions.

Former union republics have declared their independence but contiue to live in a common economic space where chaos and confusion are now reigning supreme, Yastrebtsov writes.

Such a situation gives rise to panic inside the country. Business people outside the country, who are prepared to invest their capital in the Soviet economy feel concern, too, he observes.

The Independent Gazette writes in this connection: "Yet another spiral of the all-union chaos. Russia quarrels with the other republics, Moscow quarrels with Russia, the Moscow city council quarrels with the Moscow mayor."

The newspaper dwells on a conflict between Moscow's Deputy Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and Russia's Prime Minister Ivan Silayev.

At a meeting of the committee for the day-to-day management of the soviet economy, following a clash between Luzhkov and Silayev, the latter offered to resign from the post of the committee chairman.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries a report by the Soviet Defence Ministry's commission for the abolition of military-political agencies and for the establishment of combat training agencies and structures for work to educate the personnel of the Soviet armed forces.

The abolition of the military-political agencies does not mean an end to the work to educate people in the army. On the contrary, this work should intensify and its character and content should acquire a new quality, the commission's report points out.

Vitaliy Ignatenko, new general director of the Soviet news agency TASS, told PRAVDA about radical changes that take place within the news agency.

Red-tape should be done away with in the agency and the genuine spirit of journalistic creative endeavour should be infused into it, Ignatenko said.

TASS Reviews 16 Sep PRAVDA

LD1609054991 Moscow TASS in English 0534 GMT 16 Sep 91

["PRAVDA Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Today's PRAVDA publishes an article by economic observer Viktor Tomashkevich about the state of and prospects for the development of the Soviet economy.

He blames momentary policies that have actually suppressed the economy represented by manufacturer, that is an enterprise, and suggested instructions on how to live in the future which add to the problem, for the current economic crisis in the country.

Publicist A. Pokrovskiy speaks about the future of Soviet sciences. He says vague prospects of the Soviet Academy of Sciences as the country's scientific centre create favourable conditions for brain drain, which he views as an irretrievable mistake.

The article "Autumn of our Concern" offers brief reports from the country's "hot spots".

It reports tensions in the Dnestr region in Moldavia, where local residents continue the blockade of a railway road, demanding a release of arrested parliamentarians.

The article also informs about the complex situation on the Armenian border and in Nakhichevan Republic in Azerbaijan, where several dozen Armenian hostages are being held.

PRAVDA says Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia has decided to reinforce OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] units and the National Guard with interior troops to be created in the republic, which many observers believe may aggravate the situation in Tbilisi and the whole republic.

The newspaper says attempts to begin a dialogue between Georgian armed units and local residents may help normalise the situation in South Ossetia.

PRAVDA reports about a forthcoming Soviet-Austrian space flight, and the joint crew's work on board the Soviet orbiting station Mir.

The newspaper also carries materials about the ecological situation on the Volga river.

PRAVDA commentator Vladimir Gerasimov comments on Western businessmen's problems in our country caused by current reforms.

The newspaper's rubric "Darmstadt Meetings" is devoted to European security and the development of a unified Europe and the Soviet Union as its integral part.

Economic

Budget Deficit R200 Billion; Silayev Critical

LD1309203991 Moscow TASS in English 1831 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Isachenkov]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—The latest information about the disastrous state of the Union budget was made public today at a meeting of the USSR Committee for the Management of the National Economy.

The USSR Ministry of Finance estimated that the deficit of the Union budget will make up this year 144 billion roubles as against 26 billion roubles initially planned.

With taking into account credits for budgetary expenditures by the USSR State Bank, the deficit will surpass 200 billion roubles, Vladimir Rayevskiy, first deputy finance minister of the USSR, told the committee.

Chairman of the committee Ivan Silayev reproached the minister that he just mentioned the situation instead of giving specific proposals for the reduction of expenditures under the budget, including expenditures on defence.

Silayev said that Rayevskiy's speech is a relapse to rhetoric characteristic of former Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov who explained the unfavourable state of the USSR's budget by insufficient contributions by republics.

Silayev suggested reducing purchases of military equipment while continuing to pay the wages to workers of defence industry factories to enable them to switch to the manufacture of civilian products.

As a result the committee has decided to turn down the report by the Finance Ministry and to instruct it to prepare detailed proposals for the cutting of budgetary expenditures.

The committee also discussed proposals to ensure the functioning of the USSR national economy in 1992. They were sent by member of the committee, chairman of Kazakhstan's committee for supply Amangeldiy Bektemisov. Jointly with representatives of several republics, he worked out a project of agreement on economic ties between republics next year.

During the debate many speakers criticised that document. They noted that it restricts the opportunities for market relations. The committee decided to send the project to republics and then to resume its discussion.

State Economic Committee Views Budget Deficit

LD1309232691 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Information from INTERFAX: The issue of the implementation of the Union budget was discussed at the meeting of the committee for the operational management of the economy of the USSR which was held today. Vladimir Rayevksiy, deputy USSR finance minister, revealed that the state revenue currently amounts to 112 billion rubles [R] while bearing in mind that the budget expenditures for this year will amount to R256 billion. The deficit of the Union state budget makes up R144 billion.

Rayevskiy said that according to estimates, the total deficit of this year's budget both at Union and republican level will amount to R200 billion. He named among the reasons for such a criticial situation the fact that some republics, in particular, the Baltic republics, Georgia, and also the Ukraine have stopped making their contributions to the state budget. Moldova has declined to make certain contributions to the state budget.

Rayevskiy presented the figures of expenditures on defense. He said, in particular, that out of the total planned expenditures of R96 billion, R39.6 billion has been allocated for weapons, R12.4 billion for experimental design works, R30.7 billion goes for the upkeep of the Army and Navy, R6.3 billion for capital investments, R4 billion for the provision of pensions, R3.2 billion for the social provision of servicemen.

The meeting's participants proposed that the Finance Ministry, as well as other economic departments, work out proposals to find a way out of the budget's critical situation.

The issue of managing transportation was, in particular, discussed on 13 September at the committee meeting. Vitaliy Yefimov, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic minister of transportation, revealed that an agreement has been reached between the republics that a reorganization of Union structures will not be undertaken during the transitional period and that the apparatus of the management of transportaion will be sustained. Yet he underlined that a reorganization was, in principle, necessary. Only the USSR has such ministries as Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Automobile Transportation. Such structures do not exist in other countries since economic expediency of every batch of cargo is the aim of the state system.

Yavlinskiy Discusses Plan for Economic Reform

AU1309145991

[Editorial Report] Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech on 12 September on page 5, under the headline "The Plan Is Ready," carries a 600-word report by Jan Petranek and Jaromir Stetina on a meeting with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, head of the Center for Economic and Political Studies in Moscow, who had devised a plan for radical economic reform that was rejected by hardliners within the Soviet leadership. The meeting took place at the Czechoslovak Embassy in Moscow on 11 September.

The LIDOVE NOVINY correspondents are interested in the fate of Yavlinskiy's plan following the coup attempt. According to Yavlinskiy, his plan has recently acquired "a new lease on life." He adds: "The republics were recently given a plan for an economic treaty. If it is concluded, a new entity for economic assistance will be created. It will also be possible to conclude political treaties on the basis of the economic treaty. The original plan referred to the possibility of concluding an economic treaty apart from the "nine plus one" treaty. It was agreed that republics not politically associated with the new Union could cooperate in this treaty. Even if only three republics became part of the new Union, the other republics could form an economic union.

"The plan for the economic treaty has not been confirmed yet, but it is ready. The plan I submitted to Yeltsin, Gorbachev, and the other republican presidents on Friday [6 September] at the first session of the State Council should deal with the fundamental problems. The treaty will be concluded for five years. It can then be extended if that is necessary from the point of view of Western aid. The plan's basic stages are the same as in the original pre- coup plan."

Petranek and Stetina also ask who would submit the plan to the West. Yavlinskiy replies: "Mikhail Gorbachev has returned from the Crimea and has many opportunities to assert the plan. Apart from him, there is also Boris Yeltsin who made it clear to the British prime minister that one of the grave mistakes was that this plan was not taken to London for the G-7's meeting with Mikhail Sergeyevich."

Prague CESKE A MORAVSKOSLEZSKE ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech on the same day on page 10, under the headline "A King in the Realm of Plans," carries a 600-word report by Jan Gabriel on an interview with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy. The interview took place in Moscow on 11 September.

Gabriel states that Yavlinskiy's plans always emphasized agricultural reform and asks if this still applies. Yavlinskiy replies: "Certainly. Agricultural reform is a huge problem for us. However, it is necessary to tackle it quickly and to begin where it is necessary to begin: With the land. It is necessary to change its ownership so that it belongs, instead of to the state, to those who will really work on it. In other words, in agriculture it is essential to gradually transfer to privatization and to place more emphasis on family-type farms. Only one politician attempted agricultural reform in Russia in the past: Stolypin. However, despite the great opportunities, we are at the very beginning and have not even taken the first step."

Gabriel then asks Yavlinskiy what he thinks of the so-called Dienstbier plan which aroused such great interest in Moscow. Yavlinskiy replies that he discussed it with Mr. Dienstbier and that "it fully deserves our attention."

In conclusion, Yavlinskiy states that the USSR has no choice. According to him, "the only thing for the economy is radical reform or nothing. People should understand that results will not come immediately; they will take years. If they do not understand this, they will live the same way they are living today. In fact, to be precise—it will be worse!"

'Concept of Economic Union' Assessed

PM1609102591 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Sep 91 p 1

[Unattributed report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, TASS, RIA, INTERFAX roundup: "Concept of Economic Union"]

[Text] G. Yavlinskiy, deputy chairman of the Committee for the Operational Management of the USSR National Economy, reckons that the main conditions for the success of economic reform will be, first, the speediest signing of a Treaty on Economic Union and, second, the formulation of a joint action program based on it. He stressed that the independent states will be full-fledged or associate subjects of this treaty.

In his opinion, an interstate economic committee, a banking union, and an arbitration service should be the main structures in the econoic union; all others will either form part of the committee or will be transformed into nonstate structures—joint-stock companies, transrepublic companies, etc.

When asked about the scale of the necessary aid and guarantees for Western investors, Yavlinskiy said that the scale and directions of Western aid will only be known after the treaty is signed.

Provisions of Draft of Economic Treaty Published

OW1309125591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0300 GMT 13 Sep 91

[From "Soviet Business Report Cover Story: "Draft of Economic Union Treaty, Successor to the USSR"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Interfax presents below the principal provisions of the Draft Treaty on the Economic Union for the former Soviet republics, most of which have already proclaimed themselves independent states.

General

Union members shall coordinate their policies in: business, movement of goods and services, monetary and banking systems, finances, taxation, and prices; labour markets and social nets; customs regulation, foreign economic activities, and hard currency regulation.

Former USSR members who are willing to assume only part of the responsibilities may receive associate status.

Banking System

The Union members shall set up a banking union that will comprise the republican central banks and be built on the model of a reserve system. The status of the banking union whose decisions will be binding on the members shall be defined in a separate agreement. Pending the establishment of the banking union, finances will be administered by the state bank's board representing the central republican banks.

The ruble shall continue as the common money. Republican currencies are possible unless their introduction is "is harmful for the monetary system of the Economic Union."

The banking union shall formulate regulatians as regards monetary reserves held by commercial banks, regulate the ruble rate, and dispose of the economic union's gold and foreign exchange reserves.

Finances and Taxation

Members of the Economic Union shall curtail the deficits of state budgets in an agreed manner. The tax systems shall be unified.

The Economic Union shall form a unified budget, including the setting up of a number of special funds. These will include a fund for servicing the internal debt and a fund for servicing the USSR's and the Economic Union's foreign debts. The budget shall be formed from contributions of the union members that will be calculated a fixed percentage of a member's national income.

Price policy

Price policies shall be geared to making a coordinated transition to free prics. Agreed-on price levels shall be set for a variety of items.

Foreign-Exchange Policy. Foreign Trade

The Economic Union shall guarantee the USSR's foreign economic obligations. To make settlements with the republic refusing to sign the economic agreement, the USSR's entire foreign debt sha'l be divided among each member state of the former Soviet Union.

The Economic Union shall take out new loans subject to consent and approval of all its membera. A union member may take out loans in case it provides guarantees on it own.

Until the ruble is internally convertibls, hard currency earnings shall be accumulated under control from the centre.

A union member shall regulate its foreign economic activities on its own. Likewise, a union member shall set export/import quotas and licensing rules, but within collectively agreed-on quotas. Common customs rules shall prevail.

The Union members shall agree on a collective membership in the IMF, the World Bank, and GATT.

Prospects for Nuclear Power Examined

OW1509214391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2032 GMT 15 Sep 91

["Nuclear Power Faces Uncertain Prospects"—INTERFAX headline; from the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In 1990, the Soviet Union's 15 nuclear power plants (their aggregate capacity: 36.56 million kW [kilowatts]) generated 211.5 billion kWh [kilowatt-hours] of electricity—or 12.5 percent of the nation's total electricity production. This figure falls far short of the projected levels.

PROGRAM OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CONSTRUCTION FOR THE PERIOD UP TO THE YEAR 2000 IS LIKELY TO FALL THROUGH

In accordance with the 1983 program for the development of the nuclear power sector, the nation should have launched another 20-odd nuclear power station by the year 2000. This would have increased the nuclear sector's aggregate capacity more than five-fold in comparison with the current level, raising its share of national electricity production to 40 percent.

But in recent years work has been suspended on new reactors with a total capacity of 100 million kW—some of the reactors were in the blueprint stage while construction had actually started on others—mainly because public opinion was sharply critical of nuclear power sector development. But the sector owes its problems to the worsening economic conditions of the nuclear power sector operation as much as to the backlash against nuclear power, say experts. Among them are: the huge volume of unfinished projects and the festering differences between the republics, regions and departments. Given this situation, experts describe the 1990s as likely to be a "renovation stage" in the development of the nuclear power sector, i.e., they believe that the decade will see Soviet nuclear capacities modernized, their safety increased, and the growth of nuclear power production nearly stagnant.

TOTAL CAPACITY OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS CAN BE INCREASED THREE-FOLD BEFORE 2010

According to the USSR Ministry for Atomic Energy, construction must resume on nuclear power plants in the areas that are plagued by acute power shortages. In seven regions of the country, local authorities have already decided on the construction of new units at the existing local power plants, that would have an aggregate capacity of more than 12 million kW. Experts predict that in case this trend persists and if new generations of reactors become operational, the aggregate annual capacity of the nation's nuclear power sector can reach a 100 million kw-mark in 2010, i.e., a nearly 300 percent-rise over the current level. Priority in the development of the nuclear power sector continues to belong to safety. At the current stage, the first-generation units that were built in the early 1970s face major reconstruction and modernization. In some cases, western companies give a hand in the replacement of worndown equipment and with personnel retraining. For example, a contract has been signed under which the General Physics Corporation is to deliver a simulator for the training of personnel at the Leningrad nuclear power station. Electricite de France plans to compete for a contract for the reconstruction of the Leningrad station. Joint Soviet-foreign projects will also include personnel training and testing prospective nuclear plant sites for seismic stability. This projects will enlist the participation of leading western companies, including Siemens of Germany and General Energy Technologies of the U.S.

Committee Discusses USSR's Budget, Finances

LD1309181491 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1600 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] A meeting of the committee for operational management of the USSR national economy is taking place in Moscow. Our correspondent, Valeriy Kiosa, is on the line with the details.

[Kiosa] At today's meeting, the committee heard a report by the country's Finance Ministry on the process of implementation of the Union budget. The figures given in the report only confirm the gloomy forecasts made by economists a few months ago.

The total deficit of the country's budget system, as calculated for the year, will amount to something like 200 billion rubles. Moreover, the central government has already borrowed 108 billion rubles from the country's State Bank for the implementation of its programs, whereupon the State Bank refused to continue financing the Union budget due to a complete lack of guarantees that the money will be repaid. Such is the situation at the moment.

But what to do next? In the opinion of the participants at the meeting, the country's Finance Ministry failed to make any specific suggestions, especially concerning the reduction of the center's spending. This concerns the costs of production of military equipment, capital construction, and many other items of the central budget. As a result, it has been decided to examine virtually all the items of the central budget once again, with the participation of the finance ministers of sovereign republics.

The measures for economic provisions for 1992 were discussed at the meeting. The report presented by the committee's project team made a strange impression, because it only contained general principles of material and technical provisions, and said nothing about specific measures for ensuring the operation of the economy. According to Yuriy Luzhkov, deputy chairman of the committee, the document amounts to a revival of old methods of economic management, because it envisages everything revolving around central distribution bodies. Yuriy Luzhkov pointed out that the draft document allows for restrictions for movement of goods and services around the territory of the country, which, in his opinion—and he is right—radically contradicts the principle of a single economic space.

(Ter-Israelyan), plenipotentiary representative from Armenia on the committee, thinks that the document neglects the most important thing—the economy. In his opinion, before talking about a system of material and technical provisions, principles for the future economic union should be defined. At the moment, as I am filing this report, the discussion of the issue Continues. The document is likely not to be adopted or to be returned for radical revisions.

Economic Reform Committee Briefs on Developments

LD1309221191 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 0900 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] Recently Soviet and foreign journalists were acquainted at the USSR Scientific and Industrial Union with the report compiled by the Committee on Economic Reform, the committee set up within the structure of this union. Correspondent Vladimir Stanovskiy visited the news conference. He is here in the studio.

[Stanovskiy] The committee's report is titled: Ways of Overcoming the Crisis in the Soviet Economy and the Development of Entrepreneurship. Arkadiy Ivanovich Volskiy, chairman of the Scientific and Industrial Union, stressed that no sensational statements will be made. A number of newspapers have published reports that the Scientific and Industrial Union has already submitted its report to the USSR president and the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic president. One of the authors of the report, Professor Evgeniy Grigorievich Yasin, was introduced to those assembled. [passage omitted]

[Yasin] "I would like to draw your attention to the fact that those drafts of economic agreements that have been published in the press, including the convention worked out by the group led by Shatalin, are all aimed at attaining the republics's consent. Our point of view in connection with this is that it is necessary to have strong executive power and strong centralized bank and fiscal mechanisms for the duration of the crisis. That is why we still adhere to the viewpoint that the Union budget should have vast reserves, and that a significant share of the budget deficit should be attributed to it. Apart from this, we believe that by all means there should be sources of income for the budget independent from the republics, namely federal taxes. [passage omitted]"

[Stanovskiy] After the news conference I approached Professor Yasin and asked him about his opinion on the place of conversion in current changes.

[Yasin] "I would say it has a very important place. I think that orders for military equipment and other things must be drastically reduced, and that it is necessary to render assistance to enterprises that are currently engaged in defense sector to master the production of civilian output, so they work for a market system. There are some restrictions that should be immediately lifted; for example, the restriction on what to produce, where to obtain materials, and how to deal with workers. There are some foolish instructions. Unfortunately, we have many of them. But there are some restrictions that should be tolerated. Apart from this, I think that the most efficient path for conversion is to cooperate with Western firms."

[Stanovskiy] Everything is held up by who is to provide these conditions and who will lift these restrictions. People put the question bluntly: Which state body will do it?

[Yasin] I think that it is the interrepublican economic committee that should do it, taking into account the powers that will be granted to it. But if the republics fail to grant certain powers to the interrepublican committee, then it is up to them to carry this out."

Businessmen Urge Yeltsin To Avoid Confrontation

LD1409175591 Moscow TASS in English 1547 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—Heads of the biggest stock exchange and commercial structures, including the All-Russian Stock Exchange Centre, the All-Russian Stock Exchange Bank, the president of the International Commodity Exchange of Secondary Resources and others have sent a letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov.

The letter says:

"In connection with the current whipping up by the so-called 'Moscow Convention of Businessmen' of confrontation between businessmen and the leadership of Russia and Moscow, we, representatives of the biggest commercial and stock exchange structures, regard it as our duty to make the following statement:

—Because of the emergency economic situation and the tense political situation Russia is now facing, we should now be especially careful with our words and actions. This is why, despite the fact that our attitude to President Yeltsin's decree of August 28, 1991 is rather ambiguous, we express our emphatic disagreement with proclaiming Moscow to be a 'zone unfavourable for business.' —Such ultimatums, presented on the fifth day after the signing of the decree, are the result of personal ambitions of some leaders of commercial organisations. They further destabilise the situation in the Republic. Complicated economic and political problems should be settled through a serious and detailed discussion.

—We believe that the duty of all sober-minded businessmen is to search for and find ways to cooperate with the Russian and Moscow Governments, without heeding ill-considered appeals for confrontation.

—We hope that the Russian and Moscow governments will be open for a dialogue."

People's Deputies View Economic Outlook

OW1309163291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1336 GMT 13 Sep 91

[From "Nation & Society"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The USSR Congress of People's Deputies held last week may be regarded as the beginning of an entirely new stage of development in the country's history. On the final day of the Congress, an INTERFAX correspondent spoke to Svyatoslav Fyodorov, Boris Gidaspov, and Chingiz Aitmatov

Corr: So what are your political predictions for the immediate future?

Svyatoslav Fyodorov: I think everything will be fine if we start producing things right now instead of playing political games. When everyone starts producing for themselves the country will be on its feet in no time. I've said on repeated occasions in the past that our institute became eight times more productive over a period of four years, because we began to feel like free people. Nowadays, any factory which is profitable can be privatized. And 50 percent of our industry does make a profit. That part ought to be turned into stock corporations. And, in a year or two, they'll at least double their labour productivity. We've all been brought up on the principles of forced slave labour. But, can a slave really be a good worker? The labour productivity of a slave is four or five times lower than that of a free man. This has been demonstrated historically and economically. But, collective free labour is an incredibly powerful force. Let me give you a good example. There used to be a small factory in Japan called Honda which made lightweight motorbikes. Now, it turns out the best bikes in the world, the most reliable—and it's all thanks to teamwork. A team of engineers and managers. And the people employed at Soviet factories will also show themselves capable of matching top international standards.

Corr: But, what about our notorious apathy when it comes to work?

S. F.: The apathetic will have to work. In general, I think unemployment is a good thing. It puts everything in its proper place: let the lazy manage on a small allowance. As I see things, it's better to pay someone to be unemployed than allow his laziness to affect his colleagues. We should pay the unemployed—I mean those who don't want to work—a sum of, say, 150 rubles a month, while the others would work well and be well paid for it. The main thing—and I'll say it again—is that we should abandon the practice of forcing people to work because it isn't productive. Even America is now suffering the consequences of this practice. There, the means of production are owned by just eight percent of the population, while the remaining 92 percent are hired labour just like us The only difference is that they are provided with better economic incentives and made to work. Wherever you look, the proportion of people made to work for others is enormous. In Britain, for instance, only 12 percent of the population own productive assets, and in Germany 14 percent. Today, we have a unique chance to make 30-35 percent of Soviet people real owners of factories, plant, small and medium-sized firms. In time, the most gifted among them will become managers and directors of large corporations belonging in full or in part to themselves.

Corr: Do you think this will become a real possibility now that the Congress is drawing to a close?

S. F.: Absolutely. As far as our own institute is concerned, we shall go on strike in a week or two if we fail to obtain complete ownership. I think the patients wanting treatment at our institute will appreciate this and support us in our fight with the ministry.

Corr : And what do you think about the future of the Soviet Union, Mr. Gidaspov?

Boris Gidaspov: The future of the Soviet Union won't be decided in six months or the coming year. A final settlement of this issue is going to take around 10 years at least. But, I don't doubt that there will emerge a federal state. For a period of 70 years, we built up unitary industrial, energy, and transport sectors. A unitary economic system—you can't get away from it. Such an economy is a tremendous weight to carry around with you, the ballast being so ponderous that the ship can't get moving. As for the immediate future, I expect to see plenty of frayed nerves, a battle of ambitions, a fight between parties for positions and portfolios. This is going to continue for quite some time because people are coming to power who claim to be the incarnation of glasnost. I've seen what they've been doing for a year and a half and become convinced that what they can achieve is pretty limited. But now they won't be able to pass the buck, and all the responsibility is going to rest firmly on their shoulders. In this way I feel sympathy for them of events do you think we are likely to be witnessing in the near future?

Chingiz Aitmatov: I don't feel like an outside observer. I also worry and feel concerned about what happens here. I think we all need to be more objective today, more restrained, and that we have to exercise a bit more common sense. As for political forecasts, I think the republics will eventually come upon the idea of a confederative constitution based on the constitutions of sovereign independent states.

Corr: So, you do believe there is a need for a Union treaty?

C. A. : Absolutely. A political and an economic one as well.

Corr: And how might things develop in practice?

C. A.: I have no doubts as far as economic cooperation and integration are concerned. There is no other way. It's one thing to have ideas about complete independence and another to face up to realities. But, there are going to be a lot of debates when it comes to the political structure.

Heads of Ruble-Area Banks Confer in Moscow

PM1609110991 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Single Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Central Bank Leaders' Conference"]

[Text] A conference of leaders of central (national, state) banks of sovereign states using the ruble as the monetary unit on their territories was held 10-11 September 1991 at the USSR State Bank in Moscow.

The central banks, aware of their responsibility for ensuring the stability of the monetary system and protecting the population's property interests, are announcing their desire to pursue a coordinated monety-credit policy within the ruble area. The sides do not deem it possible to hinder one another in the introduction of national currencies on their own territories or the adoption of other measures dictated by the republics' economic interests.

Equipment Imports Key to Oil Industry Recovery

PM1609092791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Sep 91 Single Edition p 2

[Report by Yu. Medvedev: "Winter Draws On. Oil Flow Runs Dry"]

[Text] The words "cold, rain, frost in places" have gotten firmly established in the present weather forecasts. As always, the drop in temperature that has occurred has taken some people unawares. Others have been concerned about it ever since the beginning of the year, which has passed in "an atmosphere of unprecedented political activeness" among the population—particularly the power structures at various levels—and involved rallies, strikes, internecine conflicts, and, against this background, a continuing decline in production.

One of the base sectors of the national economy is the oil- and gas-extracting sector. Whether our homes will have sufficient heat, gas, and electricity largely depends on how this sector works. What resources does it have to confront the coming fall and winter season? I obtained the answer to this question in the ministry's central production control administration.

Oil extraction began to decline in the sector in 1989. Since then the annual level has fallen by almost 100 million tonnes. That is roughly the amount extracted in Kuwait. Despite great efforts to ensure normal working by enterprises, labor collectives have not yet succeeded in improving matters. The state order was underfulfilled by more than 9 million tonnes during the first eight months of this year.

There are many reasons. They did not arise overnight. Trusting in the fact that there was said to be plenty of oil and gas in the country, the sector somehow began to slip from the economic planners' attention. Let us take the following fact. Almost 100,000 people are working in the Siberian regions alone on the duty-tour method. Many would like to settle down and live closer to their work. But the contract construction ministries systematically mess up the targets for construction of housing and children's establishments for "newcomers."

But probably the chief reason for the deteriorating situation is the sharp reduction in material-technical supplies of equipment and semimanufactures, particularly oil pipeline and pumping and compressor pipes, spare parts, units, and mechanisms. Because of this the normal, scheduled repairs to oil wells are not carried out. More than 7,000 of them are idle, in above-normative downtime. The system of oil pipelines in the largest field—Samotlor—is on the verge of a stoppage.

For the sector to work steadily through the fall and winter there is an urgent need to resolve questions associated with buying equipment and pipes abroad. Soviet industry is simply incapable of rapidly providing oil and gas industry workers with what they need. At the same time, in the opinion of specialists, the erstwhile economic contacts with plants that can supply equipment and semimanufactures should be restored and strengthened. The sector in turn is making considerable endeavors to improve the utilization of oil wells and to create new ones. Foreign specialists will be recruited to repair them. Steps will be taken to improve people's pay and food supplies in an effort to stem the loss of highly-skilled working people to small enterprises and cooperatives.

According to forecasts, the winter is going to be colder than usual. So the oil and gas industry workers are appealing to the population to save on heat. Everywhere. In production shops, in offices, and in homes. And negligence and carelessness must be called to account according to the tough yardsticks of the present far from joyful times.

Experimental Wind Station in Arctic Detailed

PM1609112591 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Report by L. Obukhova and Ye. Popolzin, identified by caption; from the "Vesti" newscast; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[Text] [Announcer] Here's an unusual view of our energy problem in a report from Murmansk.

[Obukhova] There are regions in our country where supplying power costs virtually nothing. But there are also places where it pays to have your own wind-power station—and there already is one at Dalniye Zelentsy on the shore of the Barents Sea. Admittedly, it's only experimental at the moment. Wind speeds here can reach 45 meters per second and more. This is where the experimental wind-power station is sited. An energy crisis in our country is unavoidable—so what's stopping the Severomorsk City Soviet Executive Committee, on whose territory the settlement is located, from doing everything possible to ensure that Dalniye Zelentsy suffers no power shortages? Lidiya Obukhova reporting from the Academy of Sciences' Kola Branch experimental wind-power station.

Republican Banks Favor Coordinated Policy

OW1309143591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0300 GMT 13 Sep 91

[From "Banking, Finance"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Central banks in the Soviet republics announced their intention to pursue coordinated fiscal policies within the ruble- circulation zones. According to an official report, members of a two-day meeting between top executives of the republican banks (except the Bank of Estonia) and the USSR State Bank that closed Thursday also agreed on the need to set up a "coordinating body that would be trusted by the sovereign states." A draft interbank agreement must soon be in place.

One of the meeting members told IF [INTERFAX] that the bank failed to agree on the principles of republican representation in the body. Some of the republics, he said, did not support Russia that had suggested tying votes to the economic potential of each member of the interbank agreement.

The republican banks also said that they did not view it possible to prevent one another from the introduction of national money. In case republican currencies come into being, reciprocal obligations between the republics shall be subject to mutual regulation.

Officials Deny Reports of Gold Sent Abroad

LD1309234191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Interviews with V. Gerashchenko and V. Mishin, manager of Central Committee affairs—identified by caption; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] It has been decided in Russia to hand party property over to the republic. In this connection, reports have recently appeared in the press that the party is keeping enormous sums of foreign currency, even billions, in accounts abroad. Today our correspondents interviewed people who are being accused of illegally taking money out of the country.

[Begin recording] [Reporter I. Shestakov] Many reporters claim that shortly before 16 August, on 15 or 16 August, a batch of five to eight tonnes of gold bars was sent to Zurich for sale. [video shows interview with officials at a long table]

[V. Gerashchenko—chairman of the USSR State Bank] I am 99 percent sure that this is just an invention that has found its way here from abroad. After all, our sales of gold, which has traditionally and for no apparent reason been considered classified state information, are being rigidly recorded by the other side, since any commodity passing through their borders and through their customs will always be registered in their national figures.

[Shestakov] The procuracy of Russia does not yet have at its disposal the documents confirming that the party is hiding great sums of money in the West. The information on party funds can only be obtained at Staraya Ploshchad. What is the value of party property?

[V. Mishin] The basic funds are valued at 5.2 billion rubles. That includes polyclinics, printing, administrative buildings, and more. In addition, we have 7.7 billion rubles in cash. Hold on, Nikolay Vasilyevich, let me have another half second to say this. Our source of foreign currency is from the contributions of communists working abroad. In addition, since the end of the last year and this year we have been earning foreign currency by providing foreigners with rooms for currency in the hotel Oktyabrskaya. [passage omitted]

[Shestakov] According to Viktor Mishin, the party now has only seven million foreign currency rubles. People hope that it will be possible for the party to retain its foreign currency and its rubles through the arbitration court. The directorate for Central Committee affairs believes that the handing over of party funds to Russia is illegal. Everything is now confused in the formerly main house of the communists. The guards have been changed for the fourth time, and new people alien in spirit have moved into the offices. The only familiar thing is that in the canteen is there still a good choice of cheap food and excellent service. [end recording]

Options for Handling of Gold Reserves Explored

PM1609114191 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Sep 91 p 3

[I. Savvateyeva "Prognosis" under general headline "USSR Gold Reserve: Pocket Not Heavy?": "How Will We Divide It Up—Equally or Honestly?"]

[Text] Everyone with whom I spoke yesterday had the same answer to this question: No one knows.

Moreover, neither working people at the USSR Gosbank [State Bank] and Vneshekonombank [Bank for Foreign Economic Activity] nor people in Yavlinskiy's entourage and in reformer-minister Saburov's group—in short, none of those who have a bearing on finances and reforms—have given any precise thought to whether the former republics of the USSR already have gold reserves today. "No one gives us such information, and we are guided exclusively by press reports," people at the Vneshekonombank complained.

And it is known from press reports that French banks have agreed to give Lithuania back its gold reserve.

At the same time a report recently disseminated through TASS channels and published, in particular, in our newspaper to the effect that Kazakhstan intends to work its goldfields independently and to form its own gold reserve was resolutely denied by N. Larin, deputy leader of the republic Cabinet of Ministers Office of Consultants [referentura].

However, it evidently cannot be totally ruled out that yesterday's republics nonetheless might have their own gold (and not only Lithuania). How much? "Probably there are no large reserves at present," V. Morgunov, adviser to the Russian premier on foreign economic issues, cautiously surmised.

But what will happen now? At present it is only possible to guess at this, and yet we will try to forecast possible options.

If the treaty of economic union does not come about, the USSR's debts and, consequently, the gold reserve too will be divided up among the republics.

But if the treaty is signed and it retains the point that the Soviet Union is the guarantor of the USSR's external obligations, then the gold reserve will, in all probability, also remain unified. Economists believe that politicians, if they are guided by common sense, must take the latter option. This is in order, above all, to preserve in the eyes of the world community at least the vestiges of a reputation as a reliable partner: With a sharing out of debts our creditors' chances of getting their money back will most likely be considerably reduced. This in turn will hamper the granting of new credits and, consequently, also the implementation of reforms. Naturally, this will complicate our further, already difficult, existence.

With this option, Vyacheslav Morgunov believes, the republics will be able to retain the right to trade independently in gold. But only gold that they are able to acquire as a result of their foreign economic activity over and above the all-Union gold reserve.

However, even this will be inexpedient, the economist specifies, if the republics nonetheless reach agreement on a single currency. In order to be able to determine and regulate its exchange rate, the central leadership must be in full control of the unified gold reserve.

In the final analysis, both financial and economic policy in general depends on how much gold there is in the country. Therefore the republics which wish to preserve a unified economic space will, in all probability, have to create a unified gold reserve as an instrument of macroeconomic regulation.

However, the results of the talks could prove totally unexpected. And while financiers throughout the world are waiting tensely to see how it will all end with us, the only thing I can report about "gold affairs" without the provisos "possibly" and "probably" is information from the USSR Gosbank. At the reception room of the chairman of the board I was told:

"The 'canard' put about by someone that a large batch of Soviet gold will be thrown onto the market in the very near future does not square with reality."

Layoffs of Donetsk Coal Miners Begin

LD1509025491 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1530 GMT 14 Sep 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The phase of bankruptcies in the coal industry, which economists forecasted and which the miners anxiously awaited, has begun. The Mushketovskaya pit is the first in Donetsk to announce officially its complete financial insolvency.

Over 1,000 miners are being dismissed now. A small collective remains to bring the pit to a gradual halt. In Donbass, more than a dozen pits are on the verge of financial collapse.

There is a shortage of cutting and mining units, metal, pipes, conveyor belts. Miners in the central area of the Donbass are sounding the alarm—Gorlovka, Dzerzhinskiy, Yenakiyevo. Tens of coal faces have come to a stop. The delivery of timber from Russia for pits has fallen sharply.

The by-product coke plants of the Ukraine are already on starvation rations today. Ten coking batteries have been halted and the rest are threatened with the irreversible process of breaking down.

Power plants don't have the necessary reserves of coal either. And they are cutting back the production of electric power. [video shows railcars in sidings, pit standing idle, empty hall, timber lying in yard, electricity pylons]

Ministers Warn of Food, Fuel Shortages

914A1186A Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 6 Sep 91 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Opinion of the Specialist"]

[Text] M. Abdulbasirov, first deputy minister of agriculture and food of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic]:

Meat and milk production will decline in comparison with last year by 10 percent, and eggs will be down by eight percent. According to the predictions of specialists, there will also be declines in other indicators.

A. Fisun, first deputy minister of the coal industry of the USSR:

There is every reason to suppose that in the winter stores of fuel will be at a level that will not permit us to ensure a normal rhythm of functioning of the country's economy.

Agricultural

Lack of Investment Curbs Livestock Production

PM1209144991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Sep 91 Single Edition p 1

[Ye. Yevgenyev article: "Will There Be No Food Tomorrow?"]

[Text] This is year seven of perestroyka, but our lives are becoming increasingly harder. Prices continue to rocket, the shelves in the stores have become even emptier, and increasingly often the talk is about a looming famine. Unfortunately, the gloomy forecasts are not without foundation. Disturbing reports are coming in from everywhere about the state of the food market. From Aktyubinsk it is reported that meat production in the past seven months has fallen 5 percent and milk production is down 9 percent. Ulyanovsk reports declines of 10 and 8 percent respectively. In Tula Oblast milk production is down 15 percent and meat production 21 percent. Across the country as a whole the supply of this output has fallen 10-11 percent.

What does this year's shortfall of over 1 million tonnes of meat, over 5 million tonnes of milk, and 1.5 billion eggs mean for our depleted market? It means the lengthening of the already considerable waiting lines and the agonizing and often fruitless search for other produce. After all, country people are not especially pampering us with supplies of fruit and vegetables.

The lag in livestock raising accumulated, matured, and has emerged particularly actively now. In terms of numbers of cattle and hogs farms have slipped to the level of 1976-1977 and for sheep even to the 1966 level. Much of the valuable practical experience accumulated in the sector has been lost or is not being utilized. Livestock units, which had hardly begun to embark on the intensive path of development, are again at the mercy of old-fashioned techniques.

One can of course talk about the traditional feed shortage and poor selection work. Nevertheless, livestock raising is collapsing primarily because of the passive and at times barbaric attitude toward it. For example, on a number of farms in Armenia and Georgia livestock is being slaughtered and then envoys are being sent all over the country to buy livestock at any price.

You would think that such capital-intensive production units as those in livestock raising are in constant need of extra resources. But what did the planning and financial organs do in recent years? They consistently and methodically cut back such investments. As a result, there has been a reduction in the construction of poultry farms, cattle and pig farm buildings, and feed production facilities, and the introduction of industrial technology—the ultimate basis of the sector and its rational management—has been retarded.

Consequently we are becoming poor through niggardliness and a disregard for scientific and technical progress. That is on the one hand. On the other, we are not making proper use of what we have. So many capacities at large mechanized livestock units are standing idle in the country! Why is it that even industrial livestock production often merely ticks over?

To answer the question you have to return time and again to problems of the sector's economy and to price parity. It is common knowledge that a clear distortion appeared here after wholesale prices for machines, equipment, and materials were raised. For many farms it became simply disadvantageous to produce meat, milk, and eggs. The Union and republic governments adopted a number of measures to eliminate the discrepancy.

Nevertheless, the gap between the cost of producing livestock products and the prices charged for them and the cost of industrial goods remains highly significant. Hence too the majority of the undesirable phenomena whose results we see in the food on our tables. In the first six months, for example, the majority of Union republics, krays, and oblasts did not fulfill the interregional supplies of meat, milk, and eggs envisaged by the economic agreements.

What is the obvious conclusion? Either livestock raising receives effective state support or we will forget what milk and meat tasted like.

Analyst Views EBRD's Strategy

OW0609201491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1532 GMT 6 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The board of directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] has held a meeting in London where one of the central issues was the bank's involvement in the Soviet Union. The Soviet delegation which took part in the meeting was headed by the Minister of the Economy of Russia, Mr. Ivan Saburov.

IF's [INTERFAX's] economic analyst Valery Martiyanov offers his view of the situation.

Shortly after the failure of the coup d'etat in the Soviet Union the president of the EBRD, Mr. Jacques Attali, met with Leningrad's mayor Anatoliy Sobchak and Russia's Prime Minister Ivan Silayev to confirm the bank's intention to step up its cooperation with the Soviet Union and particularly the Russian Federation primarily in the agroindustrial sector and in carrying out privatisation.

Following Mr. Attali's visit, a team of the bank's experts came to this country to join Soviet specialists in order to define the bank's strategy with respect to the Soviet Union.

One sugestion the Soviet experts made to the representatives of the EBRD was to establish an emergency fund to help the Soviet Union with its economic problems, with its size to be fixed by the bank itself.

According to one member of the delegation, Mr. S. Chestnoy, from the Foreign Ministry of the USSR, the EBRD has modified the strategy of its activities in the USSR to take account of a new line-up of political forces in the country, a more prominent role of republics and a corresponding sharp decline in the authority of the centre. However, as long as the Soviet Union continues to exist as a single state (it is in fact to the Soviet Union as a whole that the membership in the EBRD formally belongs), the bulk of programmes for cooperation will involve the centre. This does not at all mean that there will be no targeted programmes for certain republics (as Russia), or cities (as Leningrad and Moscow).

There is no doubt, Mr. Chestnoy says, that the new strategy reflects the EBRD's more active stance with respect to cooperation with the USSR, although it does not contain any really new ideas or specific proposals.

One of the main issues to be addressed remains the lifting of restrictions on the amount of credits to the Soviet Union, which under the terms of an existing agreement may not exceed ECU [European currency Units] 180 million (the amount the USSR contributed to the bank's authorised capital) over the next five years.

The decision by the EBRD in late August to create a special $30 million fund for technical and consultative assistance to the USSR, which is likely to double or even triple thanks to additional contributions by some countries (the Netherlands has already said it is prepared to contribute between $20 million and $40 million), makes it reasonable to believe that it will be the EBRD, as well as the IMF, that will become the main channels for Western financial and technical assistance to the USSR.

Ministry Aide Cited on Harvest Progress

PM1309151991 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Single Edition p 1

[TASS report: "The Harvest: September Tempo"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Commentary by A.I. Zholobov, first deputy chief of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and Food Main Administration for Agriculture:

"In the last week of September the grain harvesting rate decreased: Two million hectares less were threshed. The cold rainy weather in the greater part of the country's European territory had an effect here. But at the same time the precipitation in southeast Ukraine, the North Caucasus area, and the lower Volga area moistened the top layer of the soil under winter grain crops. Therefore the sowing is being done much faster than last year. Incidentally, there is every reason to suppose that the area sown to winter crops will be expanded.

The sale of grain to the state is going badly, as before. The low purchase prices are having an effect. It is no accident that farm chiefs prefer to keep the grain for barter deals.

Judging by reports from the localities, the situation as regards material and technical provision for the harvest zone is improving. This is instilling in people the belief that the harvest will proceed much more quickly.

Scientific

Chelyabinsk-65 Nuclear Accidents Revealed

LD1209214991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Sep 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The following material is being broadcast under the title "Our Archives," both because it formally touches on events of 20-30 years ago, although the dramatic consequences of these events are with us today, and because this report lay for a year in our editorial archives. The leaders—the previous leaders—of Gosteleradio forbade its transmission. [caption appears on screen, "Our archive," followed by title of film "Chernobyl in installments"]

[Begin recording] [N. Prokofyeva] Last summer here in Chelyabinsk Oblast, an expert commission of 50 scientists was at work. At the same time, the USSR Supreme Soviet received materials on the radiation situation around the operations area of the Mayak production association. [Video shows shots of streets of Chelyabinsk-65]

An interview with Anatoliy Federovich Tsyb, the head of the commission's medical group, has lain for a year in our material intended for broadcast:

[Tsyb] Chelyabinsk-65, a closed town, an invisible town, a town which does not exist on a single geographical map. In the years after the war, the country's atomic shield was built on this dot of Urals land. Reactors for the produciton of fissile materials for nuclear weapons were built, the first Soviet atomic bomb was prepared and then tested. In 1957 one of the most serious accidents in the history of nuclear power engineering took place at this major defense enterprise—an explosion, as a result of which a large area 105 km long and 9 km wide was polluted by radioactive elements. [video shows more street scenes, then inside the nuclear enterprise, followed by shots of countryside where signs can be seen reading "Danger! Radiation", "state reserve, The collection of mushrooms, berries, and herbs is forbidden!", "500 curies/square km"]

[Prokofyeva] Information about this accident has begun to appear in the press recently. But there were three accidents. At the start of the 1950's Mayak released radioactive waste into the River Techa; 120 million people were exposed to radiation. In 1967, as a result of the wind carrying radio nucleides, the Karachay lake on the industrial area of Mayak dried up, or rather burned up. [video shows shots of countryside with further sign: "Danger! radiation"]

[Tsyb] As a result of all these three radiation accidents, more than 400,000 people were exposed to radiation.

[Prokofyeva] Anatoliy Federovich, we have the sad reference point of Chernobyl. If you were to compare the Chernobyl and Chelyabinsk situations?

[Tsyb] Unfortunately, for a long time we kept quiet about the accidents which took place in Chelyabinsk Oblast. I want to stress that the levels of exposure of the population were more than at Chernobyl.

[Prokofyeva] In Chelyabinsk?

[Tsyb] In Chelyabinsk, yes.

[Prokofyeva] The medical consequences of the three accidents: 935 cases of illness in which the diagnosis is chronic radiation sickness. The leukaemia incidence is 40 percent higher than in a control group. Infant death is higher as a result of immunity loss. It has still not been established how many people have died. The people who fought the accident have not been found; on the whole they were soldiers. Everything was kept completely secret. [Video shows more countryside, while on screen captions appear: Chernobyl, 50 million curies, Chelyabinsk 1,200 million curies; Video shows scientists taking measurements]

[Tsyb] The medical bodies in Chelyabinsk oblast did not know the doses, they did not know the actual situation, so they were not able to make the correct medical decisions. There are many ill. But they do not have social protection, disability certificates, no privileges or compensation, and yet they really were exposed to radiation. There are places where children run and play, and we have established that the doses are from 0.5 to one centi-seiferts.

[Prokofyeval] This is today's children?

[Tsyb] Today's children.

[Prokofyeva] And in the coming years.

[Tsyb] In general, the production and testing of nuclear weapons should be closed down, because our commission found significant medical consequences in Chelyabinsk and Semipalatinsk.

[Prokofyeva] That's the view of a doctor. I think the military may have a different view.

[Tsyb] Maybe, yes. [end recording]

[Announcer] I don't know about you, but I would like to look at the world through the eyes of the doctor, the teacher—any eyes, only not the eyes of the military.

Marchuk Denies Academy of Sciences Dissolution

PM1209113391 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 12 Sep 91 Single Edition p 2

[Interview with G.I. Marchuk, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences: "There Will Be No Self-Dissolution"]

[Text] "I do not know the origin of talk about the self-dissolution of the USSR Academy of Sciences," Academician G.I. Marchuk, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, said in a brief talk with a SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA correspondent. "But in now case is there any question of the academy's self-dissolution. It is all just the opposite. Our position is that a union Academy of Sciences should be preserved and should work normally. The republics have supported us in this.

"We approve the idea of creating a Russian Academy of sciences and we believe that all the republics should have their own powerful academies."

Committee Discusses Future of Soviet Science

PM1309162391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by IZVESTIYA scientific observer B. Konovalov: "State Border for Science Is Absurd"]

[Text] The future of Soviet science may prove dramatic. Scientific potential is fragile. It is easily destroyed. And extremely hard to restore. So there was a hint of serious concern in the speeches given by all representatives of the new sovereign states who gathered 10-11 September in Kiev for a working meeting on interstate scientific and technical cooperation.

Representatives of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology and the USSR Supreme Soviet took part in the meeting. Of the 15 republics that formed the USSR, only representatives of Estonia and Tajikistan were absent for certain reasons. Representatives of Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Moldova came along as observers but expressed their solidarity with the adopted decisions. The participants in the working meeting were naturally unable to sign an interstate agreement themselves—that is a matter for the heads of state—so they drew up a protocol containing recommendations for their governments. An interstate conference on scientific and technical cooperation is to be prepared by 15 October on the basis of the states' own long-term interests, the international nature of scientific activity, and the obvious advantages of cooperation in this sphere.

Everyone is afraid of the uncontrolled destruction of the Soviet state's mighty scientific potential. Representatives of Armenia and Georgia put forward the idea that basic research is a "luxury for rich states" and is beyond the reach of a small republic. But, as A.N. Tikhonov, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] State Committee for Science and Higher Education, rightly remarked, depriving ourselves of basic sciences means depriving ourselves of a future. The only way for small states to take part in basic research and in developing promising technologies is to join interstate programs on a proportional basis.

The top-priority avenues of joint programs and projects to which roughly 10 percent of the sovereign states' overall science expenditure must be allocated must now be worked out. These avenues must be enshrined in the future interstate agreement on scientific and technical cooperation.

In order to coordinate the work and pursue a coordinated policy the working meeting in Kiev recommended setting up an Interstate Scientific and Technical Council on the basis of the principles of equal rights, along with a standing executive committee. The future agreement is to determine their functions, rights, and location, the mechanism for funding the Interstate Scientific and Technical Council, the creation of a reserve fund there, and ways of providing joint projects and programs with resources and hard currency. The continuity of the work of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology must be ensured during the transitional period.

Everyone was worried about the future of the USSR Academy of Sciences. B.Ye. Paton, president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, spoke at the working meeting and informed the gathering that the presidents of the republic academies recently met in Moscow. He said that the USSR Academy of Sciences as yet has no funding for 1992—at least 1.5 billion rubles are needed. Evidently many institutes will transfer to the Russian Academy of Sciences that is now being set up. The opinion was also voiced that the current members of the USSR Academy of Sciences working on RSFSR territory should automatically be elected members of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The future of the USSR Academy of Sciences will most likely be resolved at a general meeting to be held in October.

Representatives of many republics indicated that the USSR Academy of Sciences is all-Union property and must not be surrendered to one republic. Admittedly, they think that everything on their territory should belong to them alone.

But nevertheless the working meeting suggested a constructive means of resolving the problem. On the basis of mutual accord a number of prominent institutes, scientific and educational centers, and testing areas whose activity is of interstate significance may be turned into combined establishments open to all member states and funded on a proportional basis.

The participants in the working meeting advocated preserving a single scientific and technical space on the territory of what was the Soviet Union with free circulation of information, common data banks, and mutual recognition of patents, scientific degrees and ranks, and higher education diplomas.

All participants in the working meeting unanimously agreed that the conference on interstate scientific and technical cooperation that is in preparation should be open. Not only to all former USSR republics, but also former countries from the socialist community.

Military

Gorbachev Decree Dismisses Defense Officials

LD1309212391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1916 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (TASS)—By a decree of USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, Lieutenant General Yuriy Rodionov was today appointed USSR deputy minister of defense in charge of personnel and head of the Main Directorate for Personnel of the USSR Ministry of Defense. Army General Viktor Yermakov has been released from this post.

Another presidential decree today released Army Gen Konstantin Kochetov from the post of USSR first deputy minister of defense.

Defense Minister Shaposhnikov Interviewed

LD1509114991 Moscow Radio Moscow in Czech 1800 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Interview granted by USSR Defense Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov to Moscow Radio editor Irina Chaykov; date and place not given; questions are announcer-read; Shaposhnikov speaks in Russian, fading into Czech translation; carried in the "A Topical Interview" program—recorded]

[Text] [Question] Many people both in the Soviet Union and abroad ponder about the reason why the recent coup in the Soviet Union failed. What do you think?

[Shaposhnikov] In my view the coup failed because the coup leaders failed to understand that people in our country are now different. The country, too, is different. We have also had la different army since 1985, when democratization began to develop and the public was given more information. At first this was a mere trickle, but later it became a powerful and tempestuous tide. The putchists apparently wanted to build a dam to stem that flow. That dam should have been personified by people holding high state posts. It was precisely this group of people that was swept away by that tide. These are different times, and this in my view is the main reason why the coup failed.

[Question] Our country is changing its face from its very foundations. At present it is not as yet clear what kind of constitutional set-up the country will have. There also arises the question of the army. Will it be united? What is your view?

[Shaposhnikov] In my view the future set-up of our country, whether federation or a confederation, or even some kind of a loose association, is not very important. My view is, however, as follows: We should have a common army. There exist a concept entitled: The unity of armed forces in new conditions. We will work on perfecting this concept with the representatives of all republics. In my view there exist favorable conditions for cooperation in this area.

[Question] Do you remember what your thoughts were when you received your appointment to the post of the minister of defense? It must have been a special moment.

[Shapishnikov] This is a very complex question, but at the same time a very important one. When I took over the duties of defense minister I promised myself that the Armed Forces would never be used against a peaceful population. The army needs a radical reform with an emphasis on professionalism. We have to raise the prestige of soldiers so that our people are proud of themselves, proud of their uniform and profession. We have outstanding specialists in our army, and we rely precisely on them.

[Question] How do you assess what is going on in Yugoslavia, with which we maintain friendly relations?

[Shaposhnikov] You know I can say hardly anything about Yugoslavia. It is true that the conflict has intensified there a great deal, and regrettably it is intensifying further. The situation can only be resolved on the basis of negotiations among all interested parties.

[Question] What is your attitude to the North Atlantic Pact?

[Shapishnikov] I would like to say that the North Atlantic Pact is now, on the whole, a different organization. It has different tasks and different plans. Since we have been wise enough to establish good relations, with, let us say, the United States or the FRG, and have agreed on measures to foster mutual trust, on disarmament processes, and on our troops' departure from some European states, I believe that we will succeed, along with the North Atlantic Pact, in resolving the question of collective security in Europe. As you know, contacts have expanded a great deal of late with (?NATO) armed forces, at the level of generals and defense ministers. I believe that it is now time to include officers and soldiers in these processes. I wish very much that our soldiers and officers undertook training, let us say in the United States or in other NATO-member countries, and that their officers and soldiers visited us within a framework of mutual exchanges of experiences from the military service. This would indeed please me.

[Question] The Baltic states—Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia—have recently gained independence. In your view, will it be difficult to agree with them on military cooperation?

[Shaposhnikov] I have already said that we have reached agreements with the United States and the FRG. The more so should we be able to reach an agreement on mutually acceptable conditions with the countries which up to now have formed part of the Soviet Union, and which want to continue to cooperate with us economically.

[Question] Everyone is now concerned lest nuclear weapons spread to other Soviet republics, and ask if their supervision will be reliable enough?

[Shapashnikov] We are already talking about the unity of the Soviet Armed Forces. I would like to stress that we also have to talk about the unity of the supervision of nuclear weapons, whether they are found in the Russian Federation, the Ukraine, or anywhere else. That supervision will be centralized. I can state that during the coup our nuclear weapons were supervised reliably. Now that supervision has been enhanced [passage indistinct].

Military Observer on Protection of Nuclear Weapons

LD1309211191 Moscow Radio Moscow in Czech 1800 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Commentary by Radio Moscow military observer Colonel Vadim Solovyev]

[Text] The events that took place recently in the USSR have given rise to doubts over whether the Soviet military strategic potential will break up and what negative impact this could have. Colonel Vadim Solovyev, the military observer of Radio Moscow, comments:

[Begin Solovyev recording, in Slovak] These worries are understandable. The USSR is one of the states that controls one of the largest arsenals of missiles and nuclear weapons in the world. Naturally, its distribution to the former republics—today sovereign states—will lead to unforseeable consequences. Is this development possible? The Soviet leadership believes that it is not. It is inadmissible and impossible due to many political, legal, military, and technical factors. Let us analyze them.

The political and legal factors include that strategic nuclear forces are the key factor in preventing war. Therefore, they are to be reliable and sufficiently effective and have the necessary potential for retaliatory actions. As the main headquarters of missile strategic troops believes, currently our troops are able to fulfill this function, while if scattered they will not be able to do so.

Another political aspect that runs alongside the legal one is international agreements on strategic weapons. They have been signed only by the Soviet Union, as such. The appearance of other states with nuclear weapons would create upheaval and chaos in these issues and will put back the attained results in the area of armament by decades.

In connection with this, USSR Defense Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov says that it is unacceptable to increase the number of states controlling nuclear weapons. It is clear that the implementation of international agreements aimed at the reduction of the threat of war, including the treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons signed by the heads of the USSR and the United States at the end of July, will become problematic. We can easily see that political officials from various Union republics are well aware of this. It can be said for certain that none of them will take over the historical responsibility for thwarting these desired international processes.

In regard to the technical side of the problem, here is what Army General Yuriy Yashin, USSR deputy defense minister, says on the issues of armaments:

[Yashin is heard briefly in Russian, fading into Slovak translation] Strategic troops, missiles, strategic naval, and strategic air force can be controlled only centrally, due to the existing system, its organization, technological solutions, and some other factors—not in any other way. If we divide centralized control according to the basic types of armed forces that create the military strategic potential of the country, for technical reasons they will cease to be able to function, if not controlled centrally. Missiles cannot be controlled, for example, from Archangelsk. It is impossible. Such control can only be centralized. Practically all republics have contributed to the creation of every missile complex and to the entire scientific and production potential. To be specific, thousands of cooperating enterprises take part in the production of a single missile, including hundreds or dozens of enterprises that cannot be relocated or built anew somewhere in Russia. Even Russia, as such, is unable to cope with a task like this. Every republic, on its own, does not have the possibility of maintaining the strategic missile weapons on the level of the demands of current science and technology, to carry out tests and improve nuclear weapons.

Now about the military aspects. Army General Vladimir Lobov, commander of the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the USSR, says this:

[Lobov is heard briefly in Russian, fading into Czech translation] The General Headquarters is carrying out today, as never before, a very stringent control of the state of the nuclear potential of the country. The storage sites are under a strict, untiring, multitier control, carried out by the Ministry of Defense. It cannot be otherwise. The protection of all our strategic nuclear forces, and of their locations, and the deployment in the places of combat readiness is carried out according to the conditions arising in the country at the moment. It is not possible for a missile to be launched without permission. The guarantees to prevent that are very, very reliable.

With regard to tactical weapons, necessary measures have been carried out in this area. Tactical nuclear weapons consist of a number of components that are reliably protected.

Neither extremists nor nationalists are able to take over these weapons and put them in operation. The international general public can be quite calm with regard to the Soviet nuclear weapons. I repeat, they are under reliable and multitier control. [end recording]

This is the situation regarding nuclear weapons in the USSR, says the military observer of Radio Moscow. On the whole, it is confirmed that the orientation toward nuclear disarmament is the need of today and that Soviet soldiers are determined to contribute to the intensification of the disarmament process.

'Vremya' Examines Control of Weapons

LD1509215191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Sep 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Hello. I shall start with a problem that is just coming to a head. But within a matter of days it will come to the fore, putting much else into the background by its gravity and its scale.

[Unidentified correspondent, over video of cover being slid back from nuclear missile silo, missile cone emerging, servicemen round silo, view of missile from within silo, control room, different type of missile viewed in silo, missile launch close-up, and aerial view of launch in desert] If we are dividing up everything, including the armed forces, as the second largest repubic is already claiming, then how are we to divide up this lot? And just how seriously are strategic forces being taken today, if even the top officials can in their public statements display that their knowledge is incomplete?

Strategic missiles are currently located in four republics, not in three, as was recently announced: Russia, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belorussia. Whatever is done at the top, these people are constantly keeping their finger next to the button. Compared to what could happen, all conflicts—ethnic or political—are simply inoffensive games. According to information from members of Russia's parliament, in schemes for the reorganization of the nuclear forces, the General Staff is orienting itself toward a federation of republics. We therefore propose that a start should be made on tackling the following questions without delay.

[Announcer] If there is not a federation, or even a confederation, but a complete division of states, without a center, then does it follow from this that each of the four republics has a right to regard as its own the nuclear missile bases located on its territory? And a second question: If there is a confederation, with a number of powers given over to the center, has each of the four republics the right to claim the so-called dual key to missile launches? If it is agreed that the strategic defense forces are to be concentrated on the territory of Russia alone, will military-political parity be maintained? And will Russia in that event cover the other republics with a missile umbrella? If it does, then on what conditions? A very great many new and local issues are lined up behind each of these questions, but for the moment, just one thing alone is clear: one thing the Russian Federation cannot do is declare itself to be a nuclear-free zone, because 70 percent of the strategic weapons are situated on its territory.

Commission To Reorganize Political Departments

LD1309220191 Moscow TASS in English 2124 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—Colonel-General Dmitriy Volkogonov has been appointed chairman of the commission to reorganise political departments in the Soviet Armed Forces.

Volkogonov, 63, D.Sc. (philosophy and history), is state adviser to the Russian president for defence issues. He is an author of many books, including a well-known book about Joseph Stalin.

For several years, Volkogonov worked as deputy head of the Main Political Department of the Soviet Army and the Navy. He perfectly knows the activities of the former ideological body of the Soviet Communist Party in the Soviet Armed Forces.

Recently, Volkogonov udnerwent a heart operation in Oxford, Britain. "I feel quite well," he told TASS. "I hope that on Monday our commission will meet and we will begin work."

"We have certain ideas on the issue, and I hope they will help us radically reform former party structures in the Army and the Navy," Volkogonov said.

Assistant Chief Military Prosecutor Interviewed

PM1209110991 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 12 Sep 91 Single Edition p 2

[Interview with Colonel of Justice Vladimir Bobrenev, assistant chief military prosecutor, by A. Orlov; date and place of interview no stated; first paragraph is introduction: "Farewell, Military Themis?"]

[Text] When I was at the Chief Military Prosecutor's Office a few months ago, at the entrance there were pickets of soldiers' mothers with the slogans "Down with the Chief Military Prosecutor's Office." Today no pickets or posters are to be seen here. On the other hand the "down with" demand appears to be ready for embodiment in reality. At a meeting between the USSR defense minister and journalists on Russian television there were proposals for the abolition of the organs of military justice and the transfer of their functions to the civilian prosecutor's office. Aviation Marshal Ye.I. Shaposhnikov is prepared to agree with this.

[Bobrenev] Yes, the question of whether the military prosecutor's office is to be or not to be is indeed on the agenda, says Candidate of Juridical Sciences Colonel of Justice Vladimir Bobrenev, assistant chief military prosecutor. There is a delusion in society that outside people will introduce law and order in the army more rapidly than military lawyers. I do not think that is so. The military justice organs have existed in the fatherland since the time of Peter I, since the creation of the regular army.

[Orlov] But the need to "cut them off" from the military department is cited as the main reason for transferring the functions of the military prosecutor's office to civilian organs.

[Bobrenev] That is another matter. There is no doubt that the military justice organs must in no way be subordinate to the army structures. I must say that in recent years many steps have been taken to ensure that the military prosecutor's office is independent. Justice Lieutenant General B.S. Popov, the former chief military prosecutor, spent a lot of effort on that. To his credit is the abolition a year ago of the so-called "institution of consent" ["institut soglasovaniya"] whereby to bring charges against a serviceman for military crimes the permission of the relevant military leader had to be obtained. The depoliticization and departyization of our organs also strengthens their independence. There is no doubt that other steps are needed, but it would be extremely incorrect to say that we are now dependent on the Defense Ministry. The chief military prosecutor's office answers only to the USSR Prosecutor's Office.

[Orlov] In your view what should the military justice organs be like?

[Bobrenev] I express a strictly personal viewpoint, it may not coincide with the leadership of the Chief Military Prosecutor's Office. First of all in my view the Chief military Prosecutor's Office itself is in need of substantial renewal. It should not be inflated in staffing terms. Obviously it is entirely possible to reduce by a factor of two or three the number of leading posts in the central apparatus.

Armed forces are emerging in the republics. Whether we want it or not it is obviously time to think also about supervising legality in them. That is why I think military prosecutor's offices will be necessary in the republics, including Russia.

We have come right up to the creation of a military militia. These structures exist in many countries.

[Orlov] Are military lawyers taking part in the investigation which is being conducted by the USSR and Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] prosecutor's officers into the August events?

[Bobrenev] Yes. A large group of military investigators has been enlisted to the work of the union and republic investigation groups. This is again a recognition of the high degree of qualification, objectiveness, and, if you like, independence of military lawyers.

New Ground Forces Chief Semenov Interviewed

PM1309114191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Sep 91 First Edition p 2

["First Interview in New Post" with Colonel General V.M. Semenov, commander in Chief of the Ground Forces and USSR Deputy Defense Minister, by Major A. Yegorov, date and place not given: "Colonel General V. Semenov: Answering the Main Questions of the Day"]

[Text] As we have already reported, Colonel General Vladimir Magomedovich Semenov has been appointed commander in chief of the Ground Forces and USSR deputy defense minister by USSR presidential decree. He is 51. In his 33 years service in the Soviet Army he has ascended virtually all the rungs of the professional ladder, beginning as commander of a motorized rifle platoon.

He has two grown-up daughters. The elder is married. The younger is a third year student at an institute.

People who know Semenov say he is resolute and firm. He has his own opinion on many questions of military building, which do not always coincide with the official ones.

A little over a year ago he gave an interview to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: "Officers more than anyone else are interested in the military reform. I receive hundreds of practical proposals from them. It is very important that this 'grass roots' voice be heard by those who are drafting the reform concept."

Today Col. Gen. Semenov himself is among those who are personally directing the transformations in the Army. What program can he offer the Ground Forces? And how does he see them in the long term?

Our conversation began with those questions.

[Semenov] I want to say first of all that I am not going to produce the final version of the reform of the Ground Forces yet. I have only been in this post a few days and I still have to get my bearings to a large extent. But that will not take long, believe me. We were late with the reform in some areas. Furthermore, I am sure that we will be late again unless we change the guidelines enshrined in the reform concept. I have the year 2000 in mind. At the moment hardly anyone can picture the situation in 1992, so to work out a program to the year 2000 is pure fantasy. So we have to come down to earth and answer the main questions of the present day. It seems to me that the most important of them is this: What should defense sufficiency mean? You get the impression that neither the politicians nor the General Staff have a clear idea on that at the moment.

[Yegorov] Vladimir Magomedovich, who in your view should determine the level of sufficiency of the defense forces?

[Semenov] Until now that has been the prerogative of the Defense Ministry. We military men ourselves decided the quantity and type of arms and equipment that we needed. And ultimately we filled the country with piles of metal in the form of vast quantities of stockpiled hardware which there are neither the people nor the money to operate. The result—direct losses to the national economy. In my view, there is only one way to avoid a repetition of that in the future: Namely, if military scientific and technical policy is determined by a group of people competent not only in military matters but in politics and science, too.

[Yegorov] Under your command there are several main directorates which are main contractors for the design, improvement, and repair of arms and military hardware—tank, missile-artillery, and some other types of equipment. They all work to a definite budget. Many problems have arisen in their activity now because defense appropriations for this year have been cut drastically. Particularly for scientific research and experimental design work. Whole areas are being closed down, Scientists warn that the day is not far off when arms parity will be nothing but a dream...

[Semenov] It is not only the scientists who are short of money. There isn't enough money for servicemen's social needs either. Or for ensuring the vital activity of garrisons... However, let us face facts: A country with such a neglected economy and such contradictions in its political life cannot allocate large sums of money for defense. Thus there cannot be any question of increasing spending.

[Yegorov] In that case will we be able to keep the Army in a combat-ready state? Or is the well-known opinion that the Armed Forces are not all that necessary because no one intends to attack us gaining the upper hand?

[Semenov] Of course you cannot use that argument. But we must not be blind, either. Military policy, the defense budget included, must be formed on the basis of today's realities. It is necessary to soberly assess the situation and determine the priority areas in military building. First and foremost this means the social program. Unless we resolve that we shall not resolve anything. Our sacred duty is to support officers, warrant officers, and their families, who sometimes live in inhuman conditions. For that it is necessary to allocate as much money as it takes. The second most important item of expenditure is the upkeep of troops and supplying them with what they need for life and combat training. There can be no skimping on that either. And finally—research and development. We know about the concern of scientists in the defense industry. Their arguments are persuasive. The most important programs must be financed. The remaining item is the purchase of arms and equipment, which in fact takes the lion's share of the budget. That must be reduced and the resources saved must be redistributed.

[Yegorov] You mentioned combat training... How serious are your intentions to realize our officers' age-old dream of working solely on that? Will your words not remain mere wishes, as has happened a number of times before?

[Semenov] Troops must work at combat training. We intend to achieve precisely that situation and are creating special management organs for that purpose. We also plan to organize new subunits—to support the training process. They will be formed from people recruited from alternative service. The aim of the training support subunits is to release combat formations from economic problems as well as the problems of organizing combat training support. I see no reason to deny these subunits economic deals in market economy conditions. Let small and joint ventures be organized. To enable troops to engage properly in combat training it is necessary to immediately scrap all formations incapable in peace time either of learning that or even of supporting their daily activity: divisions with reduced personnel, storage depots, and the like. When we reduce the Ground Forces to the level necessary to carry out their combat tasks, we shall achieve our set goals. I would like to say that this is not simply a question of reducing troops. The quantitative reduction is just one measure in an entire program whose aim is to change the whole structure of the Armed Forces. Major work is in progress to determine the Army's place in the overall system of the state's organization.

[Yegorov] Vladimir Magomedovich, are you not afraid for the fate of the reforms? Supposing the country disintegrates...

[Semenov] That cannot be allowed! If we split into 15 large and hundreds of small fragments it will not be a question of reforming but of saving the Army. A point of contact must be found to preserve the country whatever the cost. The military-strategic space must be integral. The Armed Forces are indivisible. National guard subunits alone are nothing to do with it.

[Yegorov] Do you not see in these formations an obstacle to the implementation of the military reform?

[Semenov] No. I even believe it possible to staff the troops on a national basis. Because it has to be recognized that we cannot stop these processes artificially. And then there is in that an opportunity of negotiating with, for example, the Baltic region so that their young people do their military service in the Armed Forces of the future Union.

[Yegorov] When you say "negotiating... so that their young people do their military service," do you mean that you are an advocate of the so-called compulsory principle of Army recruitment?

[Semenov] No. I advocate a professional army. I even regard mixed staffing as a necessary compromise in the initial stage. But what I said relates exclusively to the present day. Service has to be done right now.

[Yegorov] Vladimir Magomedovich, at the beginning of the conversation you said that we are already late with the reform. What concrete form does this take?

[Semenov] First and foremost I meant the departyization of the Army. This should have been done 1 year, 2 years ago rather than waiting for the avalanche which has occurred. Just look, the Army's involvement in all the "measures" which have impugned its honor is the result of its total politicization, the result of the party's monopoly of officers' views. The Armed Forces have lost so many excellent young officers, and not only young ones, simply because their views did not coincide with the opinion of party committees. They were called dissidents and driven out of the Army on any pretext.

[Yegorov] It is now in your power to look after young officers...

[Semenov] That is precisely what we are now doing. I recently talked with the chiefs of categories of troops and chiefs of military academies who have the right to a pension... This process will be accelerated in all the Ground Forces. The older generation must make way for the young—that is an immutable truth. It is common knowledge that young people are not afraid of risks, they do not have a very high regard for established authorities. And risk, in my opinion, is the engine of progress.

[Yegorov] Does that mean that a major movement of cadres is planned in the Ground Forces?

[Semenov] Absolutely right.

Baltic Affairs

Brazil Recognizes Baltic States Independence

OW1209131991 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1000 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The independence of the three Baltic states has been recognized by Brazil. A communique of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry sent to BF [BALTFAX] by the Brazilian embassy in Moscow says that the recognition of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as full-fledged members of the community of sovereign states will promote world peace and security. In this connection Brazil favors the UN membership of the Baltic states and intends to establish diplomatic relations with them in the near future.

German Aid Extended to Latvia, Estonia

LD1409033791 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Sep 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] FRG Foreign Minister Genscher, after talks in Riga, stated that Latvia intends to set the base value [bazovaya stoymost] of its new currency against the value of the German mark. It is proposed that Germany will take part in the setting up of a Latvian banking and currency system. Estonia also obtained agreement on Germany's financial help and assistance during Genscher's visit to that republic.

Lithuania, Estonia To Become Members of IAEA

LD1309220391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2034 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna, 13 Sep—The council of those governing the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) today unanimously adopted a decision to recommend to the IAEA General Conference which opens in Vienna on Monday to receive Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia as members. The draft of the appropriate resolution was confirmed at the session that took place in Vienna of this corporate ruling body which is made up of representatives of 35 states, including the USSR and the Ukraine.

Baltic Soldiers in Soviet Forces To Return Soon

OW1409145091 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1330 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian State Hinister Raivo Vare told reporters in Tallinn that during the recent talks between the Baltics and the USSR Defense Ministry in Moscow an agreement had been reached that all military servicemen recruited to the Soviet Army from the Baltic states would return home within the next 2-2.5 months.

In the words of Hr. Vare, USSR Defense Minister Evgeniy Shaposhnikov has issued a secret order to commanders of the Soviet Army units to immediately demobilize those of the Baltic soldiers whose military service term ends in the autumn and those who by some reasons continue to serve in the Army beyond their terms, for example, in disciplinary batallions. Under the order, all deserters among the Baltic servicemen are regarded demobilized.

Mr. Vare said that, as far as he knows, the USSR Defense Ministry has released a document demanding speedy consideration of the Baltic officers' applications for retirement.

Estonia

Baker Arrives in Tallinn, Meets Savisaar, Meri

LD1609130491 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretry of State James Baker arrived at Tallinn airport at 1000 today. He was welcomed by Foreign Minister Lennart Meri. They then left for Kadriorg to meet Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the Supreme Council. Before noon the visitor arrived at Toompea, where he met with Premier Edgar Savisaar, Marju Lauristin, deputy speaker of the supreme council, and Lennart Meri. Later Savisaar, James Baker, and Lennart Meri held a news conference in the gardens of Toompea palace.

[Begin recording] [Savisaar] Esteemed journalists! I am pleased to tell you that our meeting with U.S. Sectetary of State James Baker has just drawn to a close. It was a very successful meeting. We were pleased to thank the U.S. Administration for its support toward the restoration of Estonian independence and for practical steps to that end. We agreed on several specific matters concerning the development of our relations. We also agreed to continue economic talks at the end of October, when an Estonian governmental delegation will visit the United States. We agreed about this, and we learned that the United States supports our being admitted as members of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. We have opened the way for further talks and for further development of our relations, the relations between the Republic of Estonia and the United States. [passage omitted]

[Baker, in English] Ladies and gentlemen! Let me say how very pleased I am—and our entire delegation is—to be here today in free and independent Estonia. We have... [applause] We have congratulated the president and the prime minister and the foreign minister and all of the officials of this government with whom we've met, for the realization after all these years of a goal that we in the United States have shared jointly with Estonians, and that is the restitution of their full independence.

We have decided to include the Baltic states as a group in the programs which we have for emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe, and for the balance of this year we have... [changes thought] We will be making available roughly $14 million for the three Baltic states, which we would expect to divide up one third, one third, one third. We will then be working with our Congress to see what we can do to assist these transformations in 1992.

[Kala news conference moderator] [passage omitted] Of the aid promised $2 million have been earmarked for health care, and the other $12 million for implementation of various specific economic projects. At the same time the United States is waiting for specific proposals from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on which projects this money should be sensibly used. As far as the coming 1992 fiscal year is concerned, James Baker gave assurances that the administration, together with Congress will be working to see what kind of assistance is possible for the United States to provide to the Baltic states. As is known, the U.S. Congress endorses all major aid programs and money allocations.

The U.S. Secretary of State also stated that the United States will support Estonia in its joining a great number of international organizations as a full member. He mentioned specifically the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

During James Baker's talks with Estonian leaders, support the United States may provide toward a changeover to Estonia's own currency and toward turning it into a convertible hard currency was also discussed. It was decided to set up special working groups in both states to resolve currency issues.

In addition to economic spheres, the Baltic states' security issues were also touched on in the course of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to Tallinn. According to James Baker one will have to clarify with the leaders of the Baltic states the positions of different international agreements, taking into account the fact that Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are now independent states. As is known, in all agreements on weapons control—concluded either between the United States and the USSR, or on a wider scale, like, for example, the European agreement on restrictions on conventional weapons and armed forces—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are included in the composition of the USSR. From now on the situation has of course changed fundamentally. James Baker did not state here specifically which agreements and which passages need to be altered, so that in this area decisions are as yet to be made. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, one can say that the first visit by the U.S. Secretary of State to Estonia, which is again independent, was successful, and proceeded in the spirit of mutual understanding. This is natural because it seems that in issues of world politics there are no considerable differences in the U.S. and Estonian approach. One can produce as an example the fact that Estonia has not recognized any state in the world which has not been recognized by the United States. This suggests that Estonian foreign policy is based on reality and will in any case assist toward mutual understanding.

Ends Economic Talks, Leaves for Riga

OW1409142191 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1330 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The U.S. Secretary of State James Baker who is nov visiting the Baltics has met in Tallinn vith Chairman of the Estonian Supreme Council Arnold Ruutel, Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar and Foreign Minister Lennart Meri.

Mr. Savisaar told reporters shortly after the meeting that it had been "very successful". "We reached agreement on many questions concerning the economic relations between the USA and Estonia", he pointed out.

According to Mr.Savisaar, the two sides have agreed to continue talks in late October when an Estonian governmental delegation will visit the United States.

Mr. Baker stressed that the USA supports Estonia's membership in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Mr. Baker expressed satisfaction with the fact that he is visiting a newly independent Estonia. "We are ready to do all we can to support Estonia so that it could move forward along the road of independence", he noted.

Mr. Baker said that during the last 10 days the USA have been considering giving aid to the Baltics already this fiscal year. We decided to include the Baltic states in our programs designed to support and promote democracies in Central and Eastern Europe. Out of this year's budget we will grant $14 million in aid to the three Baltic republics to be devided into equal parts", he said. According to Mr. Baker, a group of economic experts from the Baltic states is preparing jointly with specialists of an American University a program of economic cooperation between the USA and Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The U.S.Secretary of State arrived in Riga today in the afternoon.

Retrieving Territory From RSFSR Raised

LD1509015391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 14 Sep 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] It seems likely that the Estonian Ministry of Internal Affairs will have to get ready to move from its building. There was a time when this building housed the Russian Embassy, and a Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic representative in Tallinn has raised the issue of the building being returned. Some officials in Tallinn have already expressed the view that such a wish is completely legal as the Russian Government bought the building in 1921 for 30 million Estonian marks.

But it seems that the Estonians may in turn also have some questions to raise with the Russian authorities, only of a somewhat different character. This week the Presidium of the Estonian parliament declared all past decrees by the presidium about changing Estonian borders to be invalid. According to these decrees, some Estonian territory was at one time handed over to the Russian Federation and now they are talking in Tallinn about the need to restore the republic's territorial integrity.

Territorial Claims Assessed

LD1509034291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Radio Liberty correspondent (Deych) report; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Information agencies have reported that Estonia is making territorial claims on Russia. In 1945 the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decided to annex a part of Estonian territory to form part of Leningrad and Pskov Oblasts. In the same year, 1945, the decision was endorsed by the authorities of the Estonian Republic. Now these acts of the republican authorities have been repealed by the Estonian Supreme Soviet Presidium.

[Leyvi Sher, press attache of the Estonian Supreme Soviet chairman, identified by caption] In the first place, I think that this decision gives no grounds whatever for panic or any hasty conclusions. The point is that this decision establishes the fact that the bodies of power of the former Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic exceeded their remit when they decided to change the borders between Estonia and the Russian Federation. The Supreme Soviet Presidium has no right to adopt decisions on border changes—it is within the remit of the Supreme Soviet. Apart from that, the sittings at which these decrees were adopted were attended only by three Supreme Soviet Presidium members and in view of the fact that there was no quorum, the Presidium was altogether unable to adopt any decisions. This, then, has been established by the decision of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, namely that these acts have no legal force.

As for the issue of the borders of the Estonian Republic, the treaty signed between Estonia and the Russian Federation states that all border issues will be resolved through negotiations and I am confident that these talks will begin. It is very difficult to say what conclusion the sides will reach—but, in any case, one should not expect any arbitrary or unilateral changes to the borders or attempts to do so.

Congress Favors Return of 1938 Republic Laws

LD1409005191 Moscow TASS in English 1827 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn September 13 TASS—"No to the zero option" and "Lets save Estonia", chanted participants in the rally held in the Estonian capital today.

The rally was organised by the congress of citizens of Estonia, favouring legally and practically restoring the republic on the basis of the 1938 laws.

According to the laws, primarily the rights of citizens of the pre-war Estonian Republic and their direct descendants should be restored, the congress leadership believes.

Other residents of the republic, mainly the Russian-speaking population, should be subject to naturalisation, as envisaged by the 1938 laws.

Such an approach to the sovereign Estonia's citizenship is fraught with growing tension between the two ethnic communities. Realistically thinking political forces offer other options, including the zero option, according to which all permanent residents of the republic should be granted citizenship from the moment the law on citizenship goes into effect.

Radicals united in the congress of citizens, believe that the zero option threatens estonians as an ethnos, as the non-indigenous population makes up some 40 per cent of the republic's population and its share is constantly growing.

First Constitutional Assembly Meeting Held

OW1309182691 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1600 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first meeting of the Constitutional Assembly—a body set up on an equal basis by the Estonian Supreme Council and the Congress of Estonia, representing the republic's citizens before 1940 and their descendants—took place in Tallinn September 13. Out of 60 members of the Constitutional Assembly 7 represent the non-native population. The Constitutional Assembly is designed to prepare Estonia's Constitution. After its adoption it will cease to exist.

All members of the Constitutional Assembly, including Chairman of the Estonian parliament Arnold Ruutel, have vowed to defend human rights and lawfulness and to give up politization. Speaking at the Assembly's session Friday, Estonian Justice Minister Juri Raidla spelled out the basic principles of the future Constitution. The first principle—observance and protection of human rights—ensures Estonia's return to Europe.

Ruutel Addresses Assembly

LD1309205591 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0900 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Speech by Estonian Supreme Council Chairman Arnold Ruutel at the first Estonian Constitutional Assembly session at the Supreme Council seat of Toompea on 13 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] It is neccesary to avoid in the fundamental law any dominance of different centers of power to balance authority and to consolidate democracy. We in Estonia should first and foremost sensibly develop the functions of the parliament, the government, and the head of state, proceeding from the separation of their powers, and shape an independent court system. There is no doubt that we must proceed from the most modern approach to human rights. It is the occupation regime that broke them in regard to the Estonian people for so long and so extensively that we know the price of freedom and of human rights.

The new fundamental law must ensure lawfulness and order while protecting citizens' rights and lawful interests. [passage omitted]

Estonia very greatly needs a democratic mechanism that functions well to resolve any forthcoming, very serious political, economic, and social issues. The events of August demonstrated a certain maturity of Estonian democracy. Making a move against the putschists were lawful bodies of power fulfilling their roles, and the activity of the masses of people did not anywhere turn into anarchy ignoring laws. The time is about to come when all bodies of power and administration and public organizations and citizens must proceed from a new fundamental law that meets the will of the people. [passage omitted]

During the period of our assembly's work, we must continue to energetically consolidate our independence. The fact that the constitutional assembly has started work does not mean that the intensity of anyone's work has eased or that anyone's authority has diminished. The workload will increase abruptly. For this reason I would like to wish strength to everybody in drawing up a draft fundamental law that meets the expectations of the people.

Thank you. [passage omitted]

Work for New Constitution Underway

OW1309222491 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1930 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At its first meeting in Tallinn Friday the Constitutional Assembly of Estonia decided to begin work on a new constitution of Estonia September 21. Five commissions will be engaged in this work: on preamble, basic provisions and articles about people's power; on section about human rights, freedoms and obligations of citizens; on section about parliament and government; on President and interstate treaties; on court, state control and Chancellor.

Estonian Justice Minister Juri Raidla, head of the commission drafting Estonia's constitution, told BF [BALTFAX] that the draft constitution assigns Estonia's President the role of an "arbiter" between the parliament and the government.

Addressing the Constitutional Assembly, Mr. Raidla said that his commission would submit the draft constitution to the Constitutional Assembly in a week. In his vords, it would be a compromise variant betveen the first 1920 Estonian Constitution and the second one adopted in 1938.

Supreme Soviet Rules Old Decrees Invalid

LD1309194991 Moscow TASS in English 0828 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn September 13 TASS—The presidium of the Estonian Supreme Soviet recognised as invalid all decrees concerning the change of Estonia's borders with other republics, which were issued by the old presidium.

Under dispute are decrees which gave Estonian lands in Prichudye and on the other bank of the Narva river to the Russian Federation.

Specialists studied archive documents and came to the conclusion that a greater part of the decrees was issued by the presidium which lacked a quorum. Estonia's border with other republics was interpreted as administrative-territorial demarcation within the USSR. Specialists say the decrees have no legal standing also because they are at odds with the former constitutions of the Estonian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] and the USSR.

The Estonian republic, which following the declaration of state independence on August 20 gained the status of a subject under international law, hopes to restore its territorial integrity and is ready to consider territorial issues during talks with the USSR and the Russian Federation, says a resolution adopted by the Estonian parliament.

The republic's leaders think the 1920 Tartu peace treaty, which was signed by Estonia and Soviet Russia, should be the basis for restoring territorial integrity. The treaty defined the borders within which Estonia existed as a sovereign state. The area of lands that later passed over to the Russian Federation exceeds 1,800 square kilometers.

Ruutel Predicts Lengthy Troop Withdrawal

LD1309170791 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1300 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Estonian President Arnold Ruutel believes that the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the independent Baltic states will take years. President Ruutel does not want to speak of any exact timetable yet. Ruutel met with Finnish journalists today in Tallinn, from where Marja Nikkilae reports:

[Begin Nikkilae recording] President Arnold Ruutel was extremely cautious when estimating the timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops. He made it very clear, however, that the withdrawal would not be a matter of months, but of years. As a comparison, Ruutel mentioned the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the territory of the former GDR, where 1994 is regarded as the deadline.

Ruutel stressed emphatically that Estonia and the Baltic countries are seeking a new kind of political security position for themselves in the new Europe. What that will be in the end is still very much shrouded in mystery. The Baltic states and foreign states must now urgently consider how the new position of the Baltics will be reflected in the limitation of conventional weapons in Europe. The Baltics have been, and remain, an important factor in the Soviet Union's defense strategy, not least in the aerial defense of Moscow. There are difficult issues ahead.

Ruutel also said that Estonia yesterday cancelled the laws enacted in the 1940's and 1950's concerning the borders. Agreement has already been reached on negotiations with Russia. The Estonian president thinks that they will not be easy, but he believes in a businesslike solution.

Ruutel held a discussion this morning with a Finnish parliamentary delegation that has been touring the Baltic states. The delegation also witnessed a historic moment when the representatives of the Estonian Supreme Soviet and Estonian congress started at midday to work on the draft constitution for the republic. It should be ready by the middle of November. [end recording]

New Exchange Rates Causes Panic, Run on Banks

OW1309222391 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1930 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Bank of Estonia made public Friday new exchange rates (on average, 5.7 percent higher than the previous ones). Usually, exchange rates change weekly on Tuesdays. Experts explain the rise with a televised interviev of Rein Otsason, director of the bank, Thursday evening which caused panic withdrawal of savings from the banks of the republic.

In the interview Mr. Otsason said that the USSR State Bank might use savings of Estonian citizens to pay the internal debt of the USSR. Savings in Estonian banks total 2.2 billion rubles while Estonia's share in the USSR's internal debt amounts to an estimated 6 billion.

Galina Litvinova, head of the USSR State Bank's branch in Estonia, said that on Friday savings worth about 1 million rubles were vithdrawn from the republic's banks. She described the interview of Mr. Otsason as "unworthy of a serious bank official".

However, at a news briefing on September 13 the Estonian Economy Minister, Deputy Prime Minister Iaak Leimann confirmed the report that deposits in the USSR State Bank's branches might be used to pay the internal debt of the USSR. "It became clear long ago that the USSR State Bank is a bankrupt. But nobody then wanted to listen to experts who were talking about that", he noted.

In the opinion of Mr. Leimann, a loss of part of deposits in the USSR State Bank is inevitable.

Bank President Resigns

LD1309210391 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Today's newspapers publish the resignation statement of Estonian Bank president Rein Otsason. We will add now comments from several information agencies connected with the matter.

Rein Otsason notes in a commentary given to the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE that he cannot be the implementor of a policy with which he does not agree. In his opinion, the foreign investment law adopted by the Supreme Council opens doors to Russian banks for free activity in Estonia, and also to an uncontrolled influx of the inflated ruble. The Estonian Bank president said that he has about 10 applications on his desk from foreign banks wanting to operate in Estonia. As is known, according to the foreign investment law, the Estonian Bank issues licenses to foreign banks. It can refuse to do so only for two reasons: either the applicant is untrustworthy or strives to achieve a monopolistic status. According to Otsason, it will not be factually possible to prove either reason. No foreign bank will find it difficult to achieve a monopolistic status with our weak banking system, said the Estonian Bank president. Otsason does not consider true the claim that with favorable terms for investment foreign capital will find its way to Estonia. He finds just the opposite: Foreign banks may use our money and invest it in states with a solid economy.

The resignation application of the Estonian Bank president was discussed yesterday by the bank management, and it found support. Otsason's opinion, however, differs from that of the bank's council, which, as is known, has been supporting the foreign investment law. Rein

Otsason stated that his resignation does not mean that the introduction of Estonian currency or other similar programs are interrupted.

Tax Concessions to Foreign Enterprises Granted

OW1309180191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 91

[From the "Business Weekly" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday, the parliament of the newly independent Baltic republic of Estonia enacted a law which grants tax concessions to enterprises which are partly foreign owned and are situated on its territory.

BALTFAX reports that Estonia has repealed Soviet laws on the taxation of foreign-owned enterprises and joint ventures which had hitherto been in effect. At the same time, it provided sizeable inducements to western capital.

Under the new law, if a foreign partner owns 30 percent or more of an enterprise's fixed capital, the enterprise will enjoy a two-year exemption from profits tax, beginning from the moment it receives its first gross profits. During the following two years an enterprise will pay 50 percent of the regular profit tax rate.

If a foreign partner owns 50 percent or more of an enterprise's fixed capital, and if his share is no less than $1 million, the enterprise enjoys a three-year profits tax exemption. During the subsequent two years, it will only have to pay 50 percent of the regular profit tax rate.

Latvia

Gorbunovs Comments on Baker Visit, U.S. Aid

LD1409234591 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1345 GMT 14 Sep 91

[News conference with Latvian President Anatolijs Gorbunovs following the visit of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker; in Tallinn on 14 September—live or recorded]

[Text] [Gorbunovs] Respected journalists, we just now saw off U.S. Secretary James Baker, and I would like to tell you very briefly about this meeting here at the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia.

First of all, I would like to express our satisfaction that U.S. Secretary Baker had the time and opportunity to visit us here in Latvia, during this tense time, when he has undertaken so many initiatives in the field of foreign policy.

Practically all that we talked about during the meeting, here at the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia, was connected to the fact that during the past 50 years the United States was one of those countries that reminded the entire world that Latvia and the other Baltic states had been unlawfully incorporated into the USSR.

After we discussed this topic, we discussed how to further, by practical activity and deeds, the actual process of the independence of our state.

Mr. Baker told us that yesterday he held talks with USSR Minister of Defense Shaposhnikov and also with the chief of the general staff.

The USSR minister of defense and the chief of the general staff had, in turn, told Mr. Baker that their department fully recognizes the independence of the Baltic states and are preparing to completely withdraw the forces from the Baltic states.

They think that this withdrawal could begin on 1 January 1994; however, if we could help solve the question of the officers' housing, then the USSR is ready to withdraw sooner.

Mr. Baker also discussed the question of national minorities in the Baltic states. He emphasized the fact that we are united by several fundamental matters or values. That is, freedom, democracy, adherence to human rights, and the belief in the free market, and we must evaluate our activities in the future from these standpoints. Mr. Baker underlined that this is the official policy of the United States. He said that the principle of forming democracy in our independent state, in his opinion, must certainly be connected with these fundamental concepts, and adherence to these principles would be a necessary guarantee in order not to lose the moral and practical assistance of the West.

Other questions that were discussed were connected to material assistance.

Mr. Baker expressed the idea that the Baltic states could receive, this month, material assistance of up to $14 million. Here it must be immediately added, however, that Mr. Baker specifically noted that the amount is not big, but the money is connected to this fiscal year, which in the United States of America ends on 30 September. The next amount of assistance will be decided at the beginning of the next fiscal year, after 30 September.

We also discussed the practical and legal aspects connected with the fact that the Government of the United States of America has stored the gold and securities of the Republic of Latvia. We expressed the greatest satisfaction and gratitude that this gold has indeed been preserved there, or alternately in some other country.

We further discussed U.S. support for Latvia joining the United Nations, and support in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe—where we have already been accepted. We also discussed membership in trade, economic, and other organizations, and the most-favored-nation status. To mention some of the organizations, among them, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the European Bank of Development and Reconstruction, and others.

The U.S. Government will support U.S. businesses coming into Latvia, and support opportunities for U.S. business to invest in private activity and to develop this activity.

As you know, the U.S. Government has a special fund for the East European countries. U.S. Secretary of State Baker said that he would search for opportunities within this fund to also assist Latvia.

I would like once more to emphasis the idea Mr. Baker expressed. All that will be this year. But Congress and the U.S. Administration will jointly consider how to continue this assistance in 1992.

Perhaps I will not continue to expound any further on these programs here, some of which will be material assistance to Latvia, but I will note only one more fact, that we were informed that the U.S. Information Agency has undertaken to assist Latvian Television and Radio with equipment.

The U.S. secretary of state was informed about our planned trip to New York, to the United Nations. Mr. Baker expressed a desire to organize a meeting with President Bush for us. We did not refuse such an opportunity, that there could be a possibility of us meeting with the President during this visit to the United Nations, but then, of course, we would have to go to Washington. This is a very brief summary of our meeting.

We expressed mutual satisfaction with this meeting, and we also expressed the view that this meeting could really further concrete cooperation between Latvia and the United States.

Thank you.

[Announcer] Are there any questions, please?

[Unidentified correspondent in English] I'd like to ask President Gorbunovs what his opinion is of the Soviet defense minister's offer to withdraw the troops sooner if Latvia helps to pay for their resettlement. Does Latvia have the money to help, and is it willing to do that to get the troops out sooner than 1994?

[Gorbunovs] First of all, I would like to say that we understand very well that the presence of the USSR Army in the independent state of Latvia is a destabilizing political factor.

Because of that, as you understand, we naturally take a position for the withdrawal of the Soviet Army from the territory of Latvia. Regarding your specific question, my opionion is that during this time the army must be completely withdrawn; it must be redeployed, but not cut back.

I hope that the USSR will reduce its army soon, and there will no longer be an army present here, that they can find a place to station them and can create residences for them. However, we should help the officers to get housing in Russia or on other territory. This should be decided in interstate talks.

I understand that there must be a kind of first stage, which we shall take into consideration, a period in which these troops are withdrawn. If the USSR proposes shortening this period, only then will we be able to reply to this question. Evidently, we will have to learn from Germany's experience.

[Unidentified correspondent in English] Did Mr. Baker express an opinion on the offer?

[Gorbunovs] I have already told you briefly what Mr. Baker said.

[Unidentified correspondent in English] I'd like to ask President Gorbunovs, how long was this meeting with Mr. Baker? We know how long the visit was, but not the actual meeting. And the second question, was the issue of defense and security in the Baltic region discussed during the meeting? Did the secretary of state show any American interest in the new security of this region? Thank you.

[Gorbunovs] I did not precisely measure the meeting, but it seems to me, it was approximately 45 or 50 minutes.

Regarding U.S. interest in the question of Baltic security and the U.S. position on Baltic security, we did not discuss this in detail.

As I have already told you, we discussed specifically the assistance that the United States will provide Latvia.

[Correspondent from Mexican television in Russian] Mr. Chairman, do you consider that since the events in the Soviet Union that the borders of the Third World have been extended, and do you think that because of this the Western world is offering support and aid, and do you think this aid is adequate and how do you think it should be distributed?

[Gorbunovs] Certainly we cannot say that the aid that has been offered is adequate; certainly if we compare this aid with those requests that have been made by Israel, for instance, yesterday as we heard. But in my opinion, the most important thing now is not the specific amount of money being offered. Our concern now and our utmost need in the present situation is extended aid by teams of experts from those developed countries that are able to offer this support, and so in joint work certain programs can be set up as a result of this aid.

I am at present very anxious about whether we are ready to receive the support being offered to us. At present, it is evident that our experts are not ready to use this support according to those standards and criteria that are accepted in the world. My feeling and my belief is that if we show a readiness and ability to use this support efficiently and to [words indistinct] that it is mutually advantageous for both sides, then my belief is that more support and more financial aid will follow in that case.

[Unidentified correspondent in English] President Gorbunovs— [Words indistinct] the last question.

[Unidentified correspondent in English] Why do you think the United States was one of the last Western nations to recognize the Baltic states? And do you know how you would use your share of the money offered today?

[Gorbunovs] It would be better for U.S. Secretary James Baker to answer that first question. I can only express my subjective view. It seems to me that the U.S. Administration and the President assessed the situation and the political processes in Moscow very seriously. But, nevertheless, they evidently did not have all the information available at that time. When they saw that Congress would not go back to previous ways, but wanted progress, then this decision was adopted. The sole purpose of the decision was to influence the Congress to maintain progress. That is my personal view.

But perhaps, speaking in general about U.S. policy in connection with the changes in the USSR, I would like to express a brief view: It appears to me that such a view should not be accepted that the Baltic states are independent and that the remainder of the USSR is something united and indivisible. Other processes are developing there, as we see, and therefore the central structures of the USSR will evidently take quite a different form and different function, but this will of course be shown by the future.

Thank you.

Shaposhnikov-Godmanis Talks on Military Reported

LD1309162491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1112 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Report by correspondent Rasma Malinovska in Riga on 13 September]

[Text] [Announcer] Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia have called for the complete withdrawal of Soviet Armed Forces from the Baltic region in connection with the restoration of the independence of the Baltic states. A meeting took place in Moscow between representatives of the governments and the legislatures of the three interested Baltic countries and Marshal Shaposhnikov, USSR defense minister. Rasma Malinovska, our correspondent in Riga, reports.

[Malinovska] Latvian Prime Minister spoke at this meeting on behalf of the Baltic states. At a news conference on the results of the talks, Mr. Godmanis expressed the opinion that at the initial stage the USSR Army's military activity should be totally separated from civilian life. Military commissariats should be eliminated and all large towns should without delay be completely freed from the presence of the armed forces. All military schools should be removed from the territory of the Baltic region.

The USSR Defense Ministry is prepared to promote interstate talks about the withdrawal of the armed forces and about the timescale for the withdrawal. It also agrees to the creation of an international commission for this aim.

Minister Shaposhnikov reported that he agreed to the release from the armed forces of Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian young men. But the Latvian side stated categorically that it did not divide up Latvian recruits according to their ethnicity as they were all potential citizens of the Latvian Republic. Minister Shaposhnikov, however, expressed the opinion that for now the position should remain that only young men of the three Baltic peoples would be demobilized.

The Latvian Republic Supreme Soviet has already adopted a law in accordance with which as of 1 October all men aged between 18 and 55 who are permanent inhabitants of the republic are subject to obligatory state service. Young men aged between 19 to 25 will be called up for active service. At the same time the law on alternative service ceases to be valid. Persons whose beliefs or pacific conviction prevents them from carrying out military service are given the opportunity of replacing it with labor service lasting two years. The military service foreseen by the law, however, lasts one and a half years. The new call-up is planned for this fall. After the introduction of the institution of citizenship in the republic, only citizens of the Latvian Republic will be called up for military service.

Diplomatic Relations With USSR Proposed

LD1509025991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1310 GMT 14 Sep 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Pershin]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep (TASS)—The Republic of Latvia has presented the issue of establishing diplomatic relations between Moscow and Riga at the meeting of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the USSR and of the union republics that were held here on Friday. Janis Freimanis, member of the permanent commission on foreign affairs of the Latvian Supreme Soviet, revealed this in a interview with TASS today. He took part, together with Janis Peters, permanent representative of the Republic of Latvia in Moscow, in the meeting in the capacity of an observer. He explained that this step that has been undertaken by the Latvian side is dictated by the desire "to be equal" at the coming talks on the "technical aspects" connected with the fact of the recognition of the independent Latvian state.

I derived the impression, continues Janis Freimanis, referring to the conversation that took place with Boris

Pankin, the USSR foreign minister, and his first deputy Vladimir Petrovskiy, that "our request was received positively". Janis Freimanis expressed his satisfaction with the results of his participation in the meeting of the Council in the capacity of an observer. He thinks that the permanent representation of Latvia in Moscow could be in the long term transformed into an embassy.

Government Reorganization Options Developed

OW1309121491 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ilze Cielava, assistant to the Latvian premier, said in an interviev with the nespaper "DIENA" that several options for the reorganisation of the Latvian Government had already been developed and would in all probability be put into practice soon. It is envisaged that the present ministries will be abolished and new ones created. Concrete reorganisational work is due to begin in the miidle of next week.

Compulsory State Service Law Adopted

OW1409175991 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Under a law adopted recently by the Latvian parliament, all Latvian men aged 18 to 50 must go into state service.

Those having served in the Soviet Army or undertaken an alternative service are transferred to the reserve.

Reports in the Latvian press say on October 1 several thousand young men aged 19 to 25 will be called up for active service. They will serve as border guards, policemen and wardens at prisons. The term of active service is 1.5-2 years.

The law on state service replaces that on alternative service. Those who cannot undertake active service because of confession or pacifist convictions will face a two-year civilian service.

Advocates Board Appoints Lawyer for Rubiks

OW1309222291 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1930 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian Board of Advocates has appointed Velta Zekunde, an experienced lawyer vith 45 years of service, as defendant of Alfred Rubiks, the former leader of the Latvian Communist Party. Zekunde told reporters that during a week Rubiks had been held in a hospital for treatment after a hunger strike. On September 9 he was returned to prison in normal condition.

As is known, Rubiks, who supported the Emergency Committee during the coup attempt, is accused of high treason. At first he declined to give evidence, then launched a hunger strike and only on September 9 agreed to answer investigators' questions.

Wherabouts of Riga OMON Policemen Unknown

OW1309122891 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvia's Deputy Minister of the Interior, Mr. P. Yakimov, has told the Newspaper "DIENA" that the whereabouts of several dozen Riga (OMON) [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] riot policemen is still unclear. (The OMON riot police had a hand in many illegal activities in the Baltic republics.) On the day the Riga riot police were transferred to Tiumen, 40 people remained "unaccounted for." The Republic of Latvia's prosecutor general has received unconfirmed reports that 25 of them have been demobilised.

Popular Front Deputies Discusses Citizenship

LD1409024491 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2030 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The most heated political problem—citizenship—was on the agenda in a session of the majority Popular Front faction in the Latvian parliament. Quite a few political parties categorically oppose the so-called zero variant in granting citizenship—providing automatic citizenship to all residents of Latvia living here on the given moment—while the head of the parliament, Anatolys Gorbunovs, and government leader, Ivars Godmanis, were against the project of granting citizenship only to those who were Latvian citizens until 1940 and their legitimate successors.

According to the information from the Latvian parliament, deputies are tending to accept the third variant, which envisages restoration of citizenship to former Latvian citizens and their legitimate successors at the same time leaving doors open for those who are willing to apply for Latvian citizenship.

Seminar on Citizenship Problems 14-15 Sep

OW1409143091 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1330 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A seminar on problems of Latvian citizenship organized by the Latvian Popular Front is to take place in Yurmala September 14 and 15. The seminar's subject may cause certain disagreement between the factions of the Latvian Popular Front in the republican parliament. Some deputies consider that Latvian citizenship should be granted to all those living in the republic and speaking the Latvian language. As Janis Dinevic, a deputy of parliament, put it, "It would be wrong to leave 48 percent of the Latvian population without the voting right in parliamentary elections". However, deputies of another faction of the Latvian Popular Front called the "Movement for Latvia's National Independence" have a different point of view. In their opinion, only those who had lived in the republic before 1940 and their descendants can become Latvian citizens. Three deputies of the "Movement for Latvia's Independence" have announced their intention to abandon the faction saying the question of citizenship is being resolved too slowly.

Lithuania

Baker, Leaders Discuss Economic, Financial Aid

LD1409193691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1731 GMT 14 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Serafim Bykhun]

[Text] Vilnius, 14 Sep (TASS)—Today James Baker, U.S. secretary of state, visited Lithuania briefly. He met Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Republic's Supreme Soviet, and Gediminas Vagnorius, prime minister of Lithuania.

It has become known from official sources that at these meetings questions of economic and financial aid to Lithuania on the part of the United States, and assistance in the quickest possible entry of the Republic into the United Nations and other international organizations, were discussed. The question of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Lithuanian territory was also touched upon.

Landsbergis Assesses Visit

LD1509082991 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1734 GMT 14 Sep 91

[News conference given by Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuanian; journalists are not identified; place not given—live]

[Text] [Journalist] [words indistinct] a letter where he asked to revoke the decision by the Supreme Council on local councils. What is your reaction to the recent proposals made by the Polish Government?

[Landsbergis] The proposals by the Polish Government, if they exist, have not yet reached me. The proposal to revoke the decisions of our parliament can be regarded as hasty, made without delving deeply into the situation in Lithuania and into the causes of why such a decision was made. We could even say that this is similiar to interference into our internal affairs. But in this case, knowing that Poland is taking care of its countrymen residing somewhere else, and that Mr. Skubiszewski may have believed in incomplete information, we do not regard this in this way.

[Journalist] Mr. Chairman, could you speak briefly about Mr. Baker's visit in Lithuania?

The visit by Mr. Baker was well prepared, informative, and described the U.S. policy regarding Lithuania and other Baltic states. It was a visit the U.S. Government and the State Department planned while Mr. Baker was traveling to the Near East. Thus it was a very short visit, but full of content. It was possible for us to touch upon problems that are very sensitive to us. They are the withdrawal of the Soviet Army and the stand of the United States in this respect. Therefore I am glad that this visit has taken place. It will have its consequences.

[Journalist] Esteemed Chairman, maybe you could comment on your visit to the United Nations?

[Landsbergis] We have many hopes that the process of our admission will be concluded on Tuesday in New York, because the Security Council has expressed itself unanimously, and the general secretary has stated that he did not see any obstacles. Therefore I have decided to be in New York and at the United Nations on that day. This has been planned. Our representative in the United States, Mr. Lozoraitis, is working on this issue, and the Lithuanian deputy foreign minister, Mr. Serksnys, has already gone to New York.

[Journalist] We already know that Mr. Baker has promised $14 million of aid to the Baltic states. Was there talk about further concrete financial aid to Lithuania? And the second question: As we know, views were exchanged during the conversation on the presence of the Soviet Army in Lithuania and the possibilities of its withdrawal. Could you comment on that part of the conversation which concerned the Soviet army?

[Landsbergis] As far as financial aid is concerned, I can state more prescisely that we have been informed about the intended U.S. financial aid now, immediately, in this financial year. This financial year ends in September. Later, this question will be examined more extensively, and maybe will not be restricted by this sum, but there was no talk about any other sums in the future. There was precise information about the decision that has been reached from the present budget possibilities, on what the United States can do in September. This is a very good sign, because some other country could be thinking for two weeks, and then it would be too late to allocate funds. The United States wanted to find possibilities as soon as possible, and they did it.

We exchanged views on the withdrawal of the Army, and I heard the opinion not of Mr. Baker, but of the Soviet leadership which had been conveyed to him. The same opinion was explained to me yesterday on the telephone by Defense Minister Marshal Shaposhnikov, that the Soviet Union had difficulties in providing housing for the Army to be withdrawn. If Lithuania decides to construct buildings somewhere in the Soviet Union, then this army could soon be withdrawn. This telephone conversation took place yesterday, and today I heard it as a disseminated idea. Mr. Baker agreed with me, with my thought, which I expressed yesterday to Marshal Shaposhnikov, that there can be no analogy with Germany. The occupation army in Germany was a consequence of the war between Germany and the Soviet Union, and in that war Germany attacked the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, Lithuania never attacked the Soviet Union and it has nothing to pay for. The Soviet Union introduced its army to Lithuania in two days and, we think, it could withdraw it equally fast, if it wished.

[Journalist] I would like to return to the visit to the United States. Is a meeting with the U.S. President planned?

[Landsbergis] It was mentioned at the very end of the conversation. Secretary of State Baker said that he has heard about it as a possibility, but did not have any information about the schedule of President Bush. He could not say anything about it. We have made no proposal or request for a meeting. Of course, it would be very pleasant and important to meet, if President Bush proposed this. Meanwhile, we are going not to the United States in the sense of a state visit, but to the United Nations, which has its headquarters on the territory of the United States.

[Journalist] Esteemed Chairman, what can you say about the restoration of the U.S. diplomatic representation in Lithuania?

[Landsbergis] Indeed, the U.S. dipolomatic mission is already present in Lithuania. The issue of the building and of the permanent personnel is being examined by our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, of course, by the city of Vilnius, which submits proposals to all embassies. I would not like to forestall the issue by mentioning possible versions concerning the buildings. But we want the Americam Embassy to operate as soon as possible and have good conditions.

[Journalist] Did the American attitude regarding the Soviet Union's armed forces become clear during the conversation? Were any promises made to Lithuania regarding mediation and so on?

[Landsbergis] This was a private conversation, and I would not like to comment on the aspects of this conversation.

[Journalist, in English] Are you planning to meet Polish officials during your short stopover in Warsaw tomorrow?

[Landsbergis] There are no such plans on my part. I will probably arrive in Warsaw very late at night.

[Journalist] Since the wisdom and speed of our state's foreign policy are demonstrated by its results, maybe there is [word indistinct] to ask: What would you expect from the opposition in the sense of it being constructive?

[Landsbergis] My wish has already been expressed. I can only repeat it. The opposition, if it is clearly defined at present in Lithuania, should define itself, become normal, and should normalize the political situation in the country.

[Journalist, in English] Can I ask you if you proposed a timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops?

[Landsbergis] I only made a proposal for the beginning of this withdrawal. And it says: As soon as possible.

[Journalist] Was the incorrect treatment by some information media, especially abroad, of the Jewish issue, mentioned during the conversation with Mr. Baker, and how did the secretary of state react?

There is no Jewish problem. I think you have in mind something else, the unfounded accusations that, allegedly, in Lithuania, during the wave of recognition and restoration of international relations, thousands and even scores of thousands of nazi criminals are being rehabilitated. This is nonsense, and I am fed up with making comments on it. But I can assure you that Mr Baker did not formulate such questions. I gave some assurances about our policy on the problems of minorities in general. I told Mr. Baker that the rights of the minorities are a matter of our profound conviction, that they must be respected and protected, by Lithuania itself, its laws, and its policy, that it is not only a pragmatic question which would be quite understandable because we do not wish to have any enemies. But this is not only a pragmatic quesiton; to us it is a matter of principle and we will strive to implement this principle.

[Journalist] There are rumors that you intend to deliver a speech at the United Nations. Is this true?

[Landsbergis] It seems to me that such possibility will or may exist. It is high time for me to go and write this speech.

Saudargas Comments on Baker Talks

LD1409152391 Moscow TASS in English 1443 GMT 14 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Serafim Bykhun]

[Text] Vilnius September 14 TASS—U.S. Secretary of State is expected to come to Vilnius for a visit today.

"The visit of the U.S. secretary of state will certainly become a history-making event in relations between the American and Lithuanian nations," said Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas. I am glad that for about 50 years the United States supported Lithuania's striving for independence and "never recognised its annexation and occupation by the Soviet Union," he told TASS. Now, after the resumption of diplomatic relations, the visit will promote the expansion and deepening of relations on all levels between our two independent countries, Saudargas stressed.

Bickauskas on Hopes for Talks With Moscow

OW1409171991 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Egidius Bickauskas, Lithuanian permanent representative in Moscow, said that Vilnius expects USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev to appoint a plenipotentiary delegation for talks with Lithuania. In an interview with BF [BALTFAX] he noted that for the present Lithuania is holding talks individually with the military, the USSR Interior Ministry and the KGB to settle the most urgent problems.

Mr. Bickauskas pointed out that Vilnius would like Soviet troops to be withdrawn from the republic as soon as possible. However, it understands that such withdrawal "cannot be carried out overnight". That is why it is necessary to draw up a timetable of the withdrawal and to negotiate with Moscow the status of Soviet military units which will temporarily stay in Lithuania.

In the opinion of Mr. Bickauskas, in the present situation Lithuania will refrain from signing an economic treaty with other republics. At the same time, he did not rule out the possibility that in the future Lithuania will in one form or another join "an economic community" of the republics.

Mr.bickauskas said that his diplomatic mission in Moscow had been hard and that he would consider the ceremony of presenting his credentials to Mikhail Gorbachev as Ambassador of independent Lithuania to the Union of Sovereign States the highlight of his career.

Romania Restores Diplomatic Relations

LD1409062191 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2130 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The Lithuanian foreign minister, Algirdas Saudargas, and his Romanian counterpart, Nastase Adrian [name as heard], signed an agreement on the restoration of diplomatic relations with Vilnius today.

Diplomatic relations will be maintained on ambassador level.

The Romanian minister was today recieved by Chairman of the Lithuania Parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis. The guest handed him an invitation of the Romanian president, Ion Iliescu, to come on an official visit to Romania.

Direct Rule in Rayons, Polish Talks Viewed

LD1409185891 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] At today's briefing at the Supreme Council, Presidium member Eugenijus Petrovas commented on yesterday's parliamentary resolution on direct rule in Vilnius and Salcininkai rayons and in the Snieckus settlement. He stressed that the councils in these territories have been pursuing policies contrary to the interests of the Lithuanian state. In parliament alone, the activity of the councils of these rayons and of Snieckus contrary to the interests o the state was examined seven times. During the August putsch, these councils were pursuing the policy dictated by the Communist Party. They were acting collegially, and therefore must bear collegial responsibility.

Eugenijus Petrovas noted that there are no grounds on the basis of parliamentary decision to seek expressions of hostile policy toward Lithuania's inhabitants of other nationalities.

In other news, Jacek Czaputowicz, director of the consular department of the Polish Foreign Ministry, who is staying in Vilnius, told journalists today that during the Helsinki conference in Moscow, Polish foreign minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski handed a letter to Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas, asking the Lithuanian parliament to cancel the resolution on the suspension of the Vilnius and Salcininkai rayon councils.

A news conference by the representatives of the Polish and Lithuanian foreign ministries took place after a meeting of the joint group of experts from both countries, which was preparing a declaration on mutual relations. The final solution has not been reached, although many provisions in the declaration were agreed. The Polish representatives proposed to make an entry in the declaration that both sides refrain from actions that might change the structure of national minorities in the corresponding localities. Education in the native language at all levels is ensured to national minorities, including higher education.

The Lithuanian representative noted that his experts proposed that the obligation for solving national minority problems be based on international law and the Helsinki agreement. He is of the opinion that, with the inclusion of too many details, the declaration could lead to interference into the affairs of another state.

'Antistate' Legal Proceedings Assessed

LD1309220791 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2130 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Report by Roma Pakeniene; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] The investigation of antistate crimes carried out against the independence of Lithuania is only half way through. Radio Vilnius was informed about this by the Chief Procurator of the Department of Criminal Investigations of the Lithuanian Procurator's office, Juozas Gaudutis.

Here is a report from Roma Pakeniene of the Lithuanian external service of Radio Vilnius:

[Pakeniene] As it is known, legal proceedings have been instituted in connection with the infringement of the sovereignty of Lithuania right up to the January events in Vilnius. In the course of the following seven months, new crimes against Lithuanian officials and state institutions were added. The officers of the Lithuanian Procurator's office had no memory of any other such case in the past decades which would have been devoted so much energy. At present this work is being carried out by the whole of the Department of Criminal Investigations. According to chief Juozas Gaudutis, there is still a lot of work so that it can hardly be finished in three or four months. The investigation has been made easier by the fact that nearly all buildings in which criminal activities against the Republic of Lithuania were carried out had been regained. First of all, these are the buildings of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, the KGB, and the black berets in Vilnius. They are being searched now and material evidence is being collected.

Most of the material of great value to the investigation was found in the former building of the Communist Party. The group of investigators which has been working here for three weeks now is headed by the chief criminal investigator, Stasys Indriunas. According to him, the documents found are priceless. Most of them were signed by the first persons of the communist party of Lithuania, Burokevicius, Naudziunas, Jermalavicius.

[Indriunas in Lithuanian with superimposed translation into English] "The court will decide whether they are criminals or not, whereas to sue them the documents which have ben obtainwd are quite enough. They testify to their activities in January and during the coup in the Soviet Union. These documents signed by them contain directions to districts as to what actions were to be taken had the coup reached its final aim".

Juozas Gaudutis who is in charge of the investigation maintains that he knew even earlier that the instigators of the January events were the former Lithuanian Communist Party, the secret services, and the Army of the USSR. Yet it was important to find documents which would provide proof of concrete actions. Juozas Gaudutis mentioned only some facts from this abundant evidence.

[Gaudutis in Lithuanian with superimposed translation] "The documents found in the party committee show that the special militia unit, the black berets, acted hand in hand with the Communist Party and under its leadership. The obtained documents show that sums of money were transferred to support the black berets. Besides, I was today looking through those documents, all those telegrams which were sent from Lithuania to the Soviet Minister of the Interior, Boris Pugo, were used to demonstrate how the Lithuanian society needed those black berets. They were formed under the guise of the Ministry of the Interior, but in fact they carried out the tasks of the Soviet Union's secret services aimed at destabilizing the political and criminal situation in the Republic. Besides, other documents found in the Central Committe testify to the criminal activities of this organization which were the creation of various committees".

Here is one more interesting document quoted by investigator Indriunas.

[Indriunas] "There is one telegram, it is a tape with the following text recorded: catch everyone in turn, and then start doing. It is hard to tell what it all means and who sent it since it is just a piece of tape."

The supporters of the coup in Lithuania were ready in case the coup came to a successful end. We know now the exact time when the house of parliament had to be attacked. Accoding to Juozas Gaudutis, this information is reliable since it was provided by the military procurator's office in Vilnius. He added that various programs were found as to what had to be done and by whom. One of this programs, for instance, was devoted to cause chaos in Lithuanian economy. Somewhat earlier, a piece of information leaked out about a list of Lithuanian political figues to be arrested in the case the coup was successful which were made in the Central Committee. Juozas Gaudutis explained that these facts had yet to be verified.

Investigator Stasys Indriunas who was collecting material evidence in the former building of the Central Committee, was more open.

[Indriunas] "I think this is just what was going to be done. The records of the last sitting which took place here make it clear that the arrests of officers of legal institutions were planned."

One more detail is worth mentioning here. In the former building of the KGB in Vilnius prison cells were prepared, most likely, for this occasion. Although this yet has to be investigated, permission has been given to arrest those wo really deserve it. These are the secretaries of the Communist Party, Burokevicius, Jermalavicius, Naudziunas. Presumably, they are hiding outside Lithuania. Therefore, an agreement with the Russian procurator's office has been reached for them to be handed over to Lithuania. Juozas Gaudutis hopes that this will happen soon.

[Gaudutis] "Of course, we know some things as to who and where is hiding. So we are waiting for them to be delivered."

I asked the chief investigator why the permission to arrest only three persons was issued while it is clear that there are more criminals. The commander of the black berets, Makutinovich, for instance.

[Gauditis] "Other persons will be arrested only after all evidence has been collected. The decision about the arrest of Makutinovich and his actions on the whole will be made after the investigation is finished. We do not want to make haste with arrests. Every person's guilt has to be proved and only then can we talk about arrests. There were post-war [as heard] times in the year of 1937 in Russia when people were first arrested, sentenced, and shot and only then the investigation was performed. Today, nobody is going to do that, and only guilty persons will be sentenced."

The future trial was called unique by the two investigators. Juozas Gaudutis said it will be a trail of bolshevism.

[Gaudutis] "I think that this trial will give an assessment not only of indivudial persons but of their policies and all the harm done to Lithuania."

Those were the chief procurator of the Department of Criminal Investigations of the Lithuanian Procurator's Office, Juozas Gaudutis, and the chief criminal investigator, Stasys Indriunas. Both officers are investigating the case of crimes against the state of Lithuania.

Sajudis Vilnius Branch Ends Conference

OW1309182191 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1600 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A conference of the "Sajudis" Vilnius branch completed its work on September 12. It was noted at the conference that the main aim of "Sajudis"—Lithuania's independence—has been achieved. At present, "Sajudis" considers its urgent tasks the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Lithuania; the speedy creation of the national guard; the introduction of Lithuanian passports and national currency; the privatization; the preparation and adoption of Lithuanian Constitution. The conference has also passed a resolution demanding the nationalization of property belonging to the Lithuanian Communist Party and the Lithuanian Democratic Party of Labor (LDPL). (The LDPL emerged from the independent Lithuanian Communist party which had been formed as a result of a split of the Lithuanian Communist Party into the independent LCP and the LCP-CPSU—BF [BALTFAX]). The resolution also suggests that all members of the LDPL (the LCP-CPSU is banned—BF) "assess their past and, as an act of repentance, do not participate in political activities for three years". The resolution points out that the LDPL members "who have not repented" would be "undesirable" as members of "Sajudis".

Price Hike Rumors Cause Run on Gasoline Supplies

OW1409180291 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Long lines of cars have reportedly appeared by the filling stations of the Lithuanian capital. During the first decade of September the filling stations sold twice as much gasoline as normal. The panic was caused by rumours about a planned price increase on fuel October 1. A few months ago the central government raised the purchase price on crude oil from 70 rubles per ton to 84 rubles and 70 kopecks.

Experts say that if Russia begins selling oil to Lithuania at world prices, Vilnius will have to pay $3 million a day to meet the republic's demand for oil.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Appoints New Interior Minister

OW1309212191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Soviet Republic] President Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree appointing Andrey Dunayev, a 52-year-old lawyer, to the post of RSFSR Interior Minister instead of Viktor Barannikov who was put in charge of the USSR Interior Ministry a short while ago.

Until recently Mr. Dunayev worked as RSFSR Deputy Interior Minister in charge of personnel policy.

Yeltsin Names State Adviser on Defense

LD1309192691 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Stanislav Ivanovich Kobets has been appointed the republic's state adviser on defense by decree of the Russian president. By the same decree, he has been confirmed as a member of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic President's State Council.

Yeltsin Meets Military on Guard Formation

LD1309171791 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] A meeting has taken place in Moscow between Boris Yeltsin, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] president, and the USSR's and RSFSR's highest military officials. The concept of a National Guard was discussed. A presidential decree on the creation of the National Guard is expected soon.

Council of Ministers' Functions Published

PM1309133991 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Sep 91 p 1

[Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR) President B. Yeltsin Decree No. 112 dated 11 September 1991 under "Official Section" rubric: "On the Role of the RSFSR Council of Ministers in the Executive Power System of the Russian Federation"]

[Text] In order to strengthen executive power in the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] and to guarantee the absolute fulfillment by the RSFSR Council of Ministers of the tasks and functions entrusted to it, I resolve that:

1. The RSFSR Council of Ministers is to carry out its activity in accordance with the RSFSR Constitution under the leadership of the RSFSR president and is to be accountable to him.

The RSFSR Council of Ministers is to pursue policy formulated by the RSFSR's supreme organs of state power and the RSFSR president and is to ensure the execution of tasks in the following basic areas:

Building a dynamic model of the market economy based on the implementation of radical economic reform, establishing favorable conditions for enterprepreneurial activity, and stimulating labor and business activity;

Raising the prosperity and culture of the people and creating favorable social and economic conditions for the all-around development of the individual;

Improving and democratizing state administration while observing the interests of all the components of the Russian Federation, and strengthening and further developing economic ties between enterprises, regions, and republics;

Pursuing jointly with the republics in the RSFSR a coordinated financial, credit, and monetary policy;

Ensuring protection for the environment and the rational use and conservation of natural wealth in the interests of present and future generations;

Protecting state interests, protecting property, supporting and protecting enterprise, and strengthening legality and law and order;

Cooperating with Union republics on economic, financial and foreign exchange, and scientific and technical questions, and also on matters of ecological safety and protecting citizens' rights and freedoms;

Implementing and regulating foreign economic and customs activity in accordance with the aims, tasks, and principles of foreign and domestic policy.

2. The RSFSR president and the chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers are jointly to decide the fundamental questions of organizing the work of the RSFSR Government, commissions, and other working organs set up by the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

The RSFSR Council of Ministers is independently to determine the procedure for drawing up and adopting resolutions and orders of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, which are binding over the entire territory of the Russian Federation.

Interference by parties, other social organizations, and any state organs or officials in activity which the RSFSR Council of Ministers is implementing in accordance with its powers is not permitted.

The RSFSR president is to monitor the work of the RSFSR Council of Ministers and take measures to ensure that the RSFSR Government exercises its powers to the fullest extent. If the need arises he is to chair sessions of the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

3. It is to be established that:

Proposals to appoint to and remove from office the heads of kray, oblast, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug administrations be submitted for ratification to the RSFSR president by the chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, the leader of the RSFSR president's administration, and the chief of the control administration of the RSFSR president's administration;

The RSFSR president's permanent representatives in the republics that make up the RSFSR and the RSFSR president's representatives at local level are to carry out their activity under the leadership of the RSFSR president in close cooperation with the RSFSR Government;

The leaders of committees, main administrations, and other organs under the RSFSR Council of Ministers are to be appointed to and removed from office by the RSFSR Council of Ministers with the agreement of the RSFSR president.

RSFSR President B. Yeltsin.
The Kremlin, Moscow.
11 September 1991.

Yeltsin Decree Lifts Restrictions on Press

PM1309131491 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Sep 91 p 1

[Decree by Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic President B. Yeltsin under the "Official Section" rubric dated 11 September 1991: "On Measures To Protect Press Freedom in the RSFSR"]

[Text] In order to strengthen further the freedom of the press and other mass media in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR], I resolve that:

1. Point 1 of RSFSR Presidential Decree No. 76 of 22 August 1991, "On the Activity of TASS, IAN, and a Number of Newspapers in Disinforming the Population and the World Community About Events in the Country," is deemed to be no longer valid as regards the temporary suspension of publication of the newspapers PRAVDA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, GLASNOST, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA, MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA, and LENINSKOYE ZNAMYA.

It is to be noted that the aforementioned newspapers have been registered by the RSFSR Ministry of the Press and Mass Media as independent publications.

2. The RSFSR Ministry of the Press and Mass Media is to ensure the full restoration of the principle of press freedom and the adoption of measures provided for by legislation with regard to organizations and persons infringing the USSR Law "On the Press and Other Mass Media."

3. In order to ensure the monitoring of compliance with RSFSR and USSR legislation on the press and mass media, a State Inspectorate for Protecting the Freedom of the Press and Mass Media is to be formed under the RSFSR Ministry of the Press and Mass Media.

4. The RSFSR Council of Ministers is to take measures within 10 days to protect the publishing business and the mass media in conditions of switching to market relations, and also to resolve other questions stemming from this Decree.

5. This Decree is to come into force from the moment of signing.

[Signed] RSFSR President B. Yeltsin.
The Kremlin, Moscow.
11 September.
No. 111.

Foreign Minister Discusses Economic Reforms

LD1209222391 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Interview with Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR) Foreign Minister Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev by Sergey Nosovets, RSFSR people's deputy and presenter, in the studio; from the "Parliamentary Herald" program—live]

[Text] [Nosovets] Andrey Vladimirovich, do you remember our conversation in one of our "Parliamentary Herald" programs, when you were talking with bitter irony about the collapsed ceiling in your ministry and the interfering Union structures? What we are witnessing today is a demonstration of the enormous activity in the sphere of Russia's foreign policy. How do the people in your ministry view all that is happening here?

[Kozyrev] This is being viewed as a natural result of those battles and the confrontation which took place around the White House. Moreover, the three-day fight against the putsch was just a culmination of these battles and this confrontation. It took us a year to arrive at this. For the whole year we were working on our policy, the democratic policy of radical reforms.

The totalitarian communist structures which were mainly concentrated in the center hampered our progress, and they have actually caused increased tensions. At last, the whole world has seen what we were talking about earlier and was convinced that we—the people of Russia, first of all—were really determined to defend the reforms, and for this reason, the whole world recognized us and is now coming here to us.

I think that further successes will depend on our achievements in building a new, peaceful life and in implementing our stated objectives. We can help in maintaining and establishing these contacts, can help with a good presentation—and the new building will obviously help us to do this. But, I think that we should all understand that Russia's international standing depends on the attitude, self-assurance, and persistence of the

Russian people. And that is why all that we are doing and all our successes are only the result of what the Russian people have done. Since we defended democracy, all countries are coming to us, are sending their foreign ministers—literally all countries are prepared to help.

If we continue to defend our democratic reforms and can get rid of the totalitarian center, if we denounce the imperial ambitions that are still here, when we find the right ways of observing international norms such as the inviolability of the borders, which means that there should be no ambitions or claims—and which does not exclude the possibility of introducing corrections by peaceful means and without threats—when we find ways to guarantee human rights here in Russia for everyone irrespective of nationality, national minority or majority, or anything—only then shall we have the success and recognition of the world community.

Finally, when we begin to implement economic reforms for real, which means that we should free the economic initiative of the people, remove all these bureaucratic fetters—republican or Union ones. Everybody is saying this to us. Then everything will begin to flow here—capital investment into our economy and our development.

Literally everybody is prepared to help us, without exception. Even minuscule Malta, little Cyprus, an island in Mediterranean Sea, not to mention such economic giants as the FRG, France, England, the same old United States.

Everyone is saying: please, get to work, and we will help you with it. Moreover, the help is not just in anything but in what you would like to do yourselves. Well, for instance, create your own chain of private shops. People will come from any country to help to organize them, to set them up. I am saying this to everyone who is now listening: If anybody wants to do some really civilized business, please do. We will help to find a partner for you in the West through the secure state channels. But this should be a realistic business. We can help our lawmakers develop laws which will make our economy more open, make life possible for the normal flow of things.

And we will be trying not to profit from this success for ourselves, but to give it back to whom it belongs—to the people, the newly fledged businesses, to democratic Russian parliament. And we will be trying to channel it back to them, to create direct connections, to let them get results from all this. So, our primary tasks here are coordination and distribution. Of course, it is nice to see our efforts being appreciated.

[Nosovets] Andrey Vladimirovich, I cannot help making certain symbolic comparisons here. You have now moved into the former Central Committee building and the office of Yanayev—the man who was telling other countries blatant lies about what was happening here and who was lying to us about the reactions of our foreign partners. You parhaps did not know that during that anxious night Deputy Andrey Vladimirovich Fedorov and I were telling the the Moscovites, who in a tight circle were defending the House of Soviets, about these people's true reactions from our makeshift basement radio station. Do you not think it is symbolic that you, for example, by moving into the office of the chief putschist, have placed another final stop to all that?

[Kozyrev] You see, just as children cannot be held responsible for their parent's actions, we cannot be talking about the responsibilities of the buildings for what was going on in them. Although, of course there is some symbolism. But you are right about one thing—of course, this was complete lies to be saying that our militarized superpower, with its impoverished population, could be respected anywhere. It was not respected; it was feared. There was a mortal fear, even among ourselves, as well as abroad.

Now for the first time we have the opportunity to become the Great Russia, a great power if you like, but on the different basis—on the basis of respect for the wish of its people to defend their freedom. This is the foundation on which the other peoples in Europe built their greatness, their rightful place. And now, at last we also begin to follow this path. The longer the Russians stay on this path, the sooner success will fall into our hands like ripe fruit. All nations are prepared to recognize democratic Russia.

Council of Ministers Discusses Land Reform, Food

LD1309232991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1949 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (TASS)—The issues of providing the population with foodstuffs, the results of the first stage of land reform in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR], and the tasks of the executive power bodies to accelerate these were discussed at a meeting of the RSFSR Council of Ministers today. At the meeting it was stated that the task set by the government of providing the republic's population with potatoes, carrots, beets, and cabbage at 1990's level will be carried out. During the course of the discussion, the new form of drawing personnel from the Armed Forces into harvesting was supported, as was the special role of private subsidiary plots in guaranteeing supplies of agricultural produce to the population.

V.N. Khlystun, chairman of the RSFSR State Committee for Land Reform, reported on the results of the first stage of the land reform carried out in the RSFSR and on the measures for its significant acceleration. It was noted that the significant growth in peasant (private farm) holdings is a very important political result of the initial stage in the reform, which testifies to the irreversible nature of the land reform.

With the aim of accelerating the process of land reform, it has been recognized as expedient to make radical changes and additions to land legislation; to eliminate the legal barriers to the market development of land relations; to guarantee the priority nature of new forms of management on the land with regard to financial, material, and technical provisions and services and the development of the engineering infrastructure; to create favorable conditions for the development of the commercial structures connected with provisions for the functioning of peasant holdings and their associations and agricultural cooperatives; and to accelerate the processes of the privatization of state agricultural enterprises and collective farms.

Ending the meeting, Ivan Silayev, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, stressed that for the land reform to be successfully carried out, it is necessary "to switch from the principle of minimum support for peasant holdings to the principle of maximum fulfillment of their needs."

Stankevich Reviews Entrepreneurial Conflict

LD1309205691 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Studio interview with Sergey Stankevich, adviser to the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR), by unidentified reporter; from the "Vremya" newscast—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Sergey Borisovich Stankevich, whom we all know well, is with us in the studio today. He is in the Vremya studio today for the first time in his new capacity as state adviser of the Russian Federation.

[Stankevich] Good evening!

[Reporter] I have a question that I think worries everyone—that is, the conflict between the Moscow authorities and Moscow entrepreneurs. As you know, Ivan Stepanovich Silayev recently said that freedom should be given to the third estate [the merchant class]. As you know, 90 percent of all joint enterprises are in Moscow and if any measures, emergency measures, negative measures, are taken against them then the result, naturally, will also be negative. What do you think about these events?

[Stankevich] First, far from all joint enterprises which have been set up and registered are actually functioning. As far as the conflict itself is concerned, there are real grounds for the conflict. I think the decree by the Russian president that is the cause of the conflict is somewhat superfluous. It really does give the city authorities superfluous powers that an authority striving to construct a market economy should not have under normal conditions. I would not, however, dramatize this conflict too much and consider it as something fundamental.

[Reporter] What is your forecast of the outcome of this conflict?

[Stankevich] I think the Russian Supreme Soviet, which will meet in the near future, will adopt a resolution and will amend the decree slightly. What I would also like to stress is that we have set up a Russian State Council that has been called upon to consider such decrees and calculate the consequences. If the decree had gone through the State Council, I am sure there would not have been a conflict to start with.

[Reporter] A decree has been issued today that restores the freedom of the press in full. What are your thoughts concerning this decree?

[Stankevich] Well, strictly speaking, freedom of the press was not lost, it seems to me. As you know newspapers were not closed. A number connected with the putsch had their publication halted just for a few days, and after they reregistered they quickly began to publish again. Nonetheless, the decree dots the i's. It stresses once again that our state remains democratic and even strong executive power should be the subject of reasonable criticism. I think that accusations of dictatorship should no longer be leveled at the Russian president.

Council of Ministers Sets Up Grain Repository

PM1609094591 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Sep 91 p 1

[RSFSR Council of Ministers resolution, followed by unattributed commentary: "RSFSR Council of Ministers Resolution No. 470 of 9 September 1991, Moscow. 'On Conditions for Acceptance of Grain for State Storage in the RSFSR'"]

[Text] With a view to making rational use of grain resources and reducing grain lost in storage the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers resolves:

1. That the RSFSR Ministry of Procurements freely accept for state storage grain from kolkhozes [collective farms], sovkhozes [state farms], other agricultural enterprises, and peasant (individual) farms that have met the prescribed target for grain deliveries to the state as amended by this year's actual harvest.

To establish that grain storage costs will be met by procurement enterprises and organizations within the RSFSR Ministry of Procurements system.

When handing grain over for state storage for a period of six months or more the owner is given additional grain to the amount of 10 percent of the quantity handed over. If the owner so desires, a monetary payment can be made.

When storing grain for less than six months enterprises pay the owners monthly 10 percent of the grain's value at state purchase prices.

Grain accepted for storage is to be returned to its owners without fail on the expiry of the agreed period.

2. That the RSFSR Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the RSFSR Ministry of Procurements determine within a 10-day period the procedure for accepting, storing, and returning grain.

3. That the RSFSR Finance Ministry stipulate a procedure for compensating the RSFSR Ministry of Procurements' outlays for these purposes.

I. Silayev, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

Commentary: Grain Repository

The Russian Government resolution we publish today is another step intended to improve trust between the state and agricultural producers. The resolution's terse sentences are devoid of emotion and the recollection of how much grain we have lost and may lose if people begin to secrete it in leaking kolkhoz granaries. No one stands to gain from that. The idea of a grain repository where grain can be deposited has been around for a long time. It is a good, original idea. The peasants must put their trust in it. It must be acknowledged, lastly, that the countryside is not only the producer of grain but also its biggest consumer. Therefore it too has a vested interest in the grain's safekeeping.

Article Focuses on Future of Diplomacy

PM1109160391 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Sep 91 p 1

[Article by Aleksandr Golts: "Between Superpower and Great Country"]

[Text] The "Diplomatic Dictionary," although it was published six years ago, is a not excessively ideologized and quite informative publication. But all the articles in it mentioning Russian diplomacy refer to the period before 1917. After that there was only Soviet diplomacy....

But I think that in later editions of the dictionary sections will appear devoted to treaties and agreements concluded not by the Russian empire but by sovereign Russia in the 1990's. Yes, Russia is now trying to understand its role and responsibility in the world. Cause to consider this was given by two television programs at the end of last week: the television linkup organized by ABC during which the USSR president and the RSFSR president answered Americans' questions and B.N. Yeltsin's conference for foreign journalists the following day.

The main impression gleaned from the television programs is that international activeness is moving from the center to the republics. That is a natural process. The attention of our foreign partners is naturally shifting to where real power is moving. Now many of them are thinking about where the emergence of a new subject of world politics located on the enormous territory from the Baltic to the Sea of Okhotsk will lead. The foreign capitals have food for thought. Thought, for instance, about how responsibility will be divided between the center, with which an agreement can be reached on the principles of mutual relations, and the republics with which, according to B.N. Yeltsin, there should be talk about specific problems.

Thus, it is no secret that the Soviet Union's role in the international arena was for many years determined to a considerable extent by its military might. The Americans naturally asked the two presidents questions about who controls the enormous Soviet military potential, primarily the nuclear potential.

I believe that in this case they were least interested in the procedures for controlling nuclear arsenals, of whose reliability they were persuaded by M.S. Gorbachev. After all the Pentagon has essentially remained uninvolved in the story of how our putschists temporarily assumed the presidential portfolio with the codes of the orders for the Soviet nuclear forces.

The Americans were primarily worried by who precisely controls these weapons now and, consequently, who they should conduct talks with. B.N. Yeltsin's statement that Russia concentrates on its territory if not all nuclear weapons then the overwhelming majority will undoubtedly raise Russia's status in the United States' eyes. I even allow that this fact may influence the food deliveries which, B.N. Yeltsin noted, the Russian leadership intends to make without the participation of Union structures.

Actually, Russian officials will quite soon be convinced of how complicated responsibility for these weapons is. Just take the Soviet-U.S. Strategic Offensive Arms Reduction [START] treaty according to which one-third of the USSR's nuclear potential is to be destroyed over the course of seven years. If a substantial proportion of these weapons are on Russia's territory then it is Russia which will have to persuade the other republics to earmark funds to eliminate the potential. The destruction operation will cost no less than the creation of nuclear death. Right now it is not even clear whether the republics will agree to finance the destruction of nuclear arsenals on their own territory. Russian diplomats will have to work to find a solution here.

An important foreign policy aspect is in my view to be found in the presidents' answers to the question as to whether or not the Soviet Union intends to withdraw its military personnel from Cuba. If the USSR president talked in general terms about how military ties with Havana are changing together with the entire complex of our mutual relations, then Yeltsin stated directly that Soviet military personnel must be withdrawn from Cuba.

Here I see that Russia is seeking to get a weighty if not a decisive say as to whether or not to retain our military abroad. Even more widely whether or not to render support to foreign states. I recall that about six weeks before the putsch the future leaders of the State Committee for the State of Emergency intimidated the Supreme Soviet deputies with the idea that the USSR has ceased to be a superpower, that it ceased to extend its influence throughout the world. God alone knows how much effort our country has expended to play the part of a communist messiah in Asia, Africa, and Latin

America. Today it is obvious to everyone that that the creation of outposts of socialism throughout the world inevitably leads only to an increase in the number of tanks per capita and a reduction in the quantity of food for each unfortunate person.

But so far we cannot set about halting support for nonviable regimes because, it is claimed, we are responsible for those whom our predecessors once tamed. Yet every day that we continue this aid which keeps these regimes afloat is essentially spreading the poverty of specific peoples. I want to believe that it is Russian diplomacy which will assume the task of ridding the country of the superpower syndrome and obsolete imperial ambitions.

Finally the main and last thing. In renouncing the role of a nuclear superpower with messianic pretensions Russia, it seems to me, must be preserved as a great power. For that it is not enough to restrict ourselves to the radicalization of the package of ideas known as the new political thinking. That thinking has to a certain degree exhausted itself. As for the disarmament process, we will not succeed in accelerating it for purely financial reasons. The potential of common sense is also exhausted: There are not that many Berlin walls in the world from which to earn hard political capital by destroying them. We have already let go our former allies. There is no one left to "give free rein" to.

Consequently we need a positive concept for Russian foreign policy, a concept which would help us travel the path from superpower to great state. Here I would venture to offer for the attention of readers and Russian diplomats an idea which in general is hanging in the air. (It is no accident that in the interview B.N. Yeltsin started to speak of the need to turn toward the Asian and Pacific region). It is our country which is now between two rapidly developing centers of forces, Europe as it unites, and the Asian-Pacific region. Integration between them is an urgent requirement of the times. After all they need at least on the economic plane to counterbalance the United States which has remained the only superpower since the collapse of the USSR.

In general Russia must do everything possible in order first to ensure the unimpeded movement of commodities and capital via its territory Then it must try to become a center for such Eurasian integration. The joint development of our natural resources—above all energy carriers—could be an important factor promoting these integration processes.

So Russia is taking its first steps into large-scale world politics. It is faced with a complex road.

External Affairs

Baker Meets Mayor Sobchak in St. Petersburg

LD1409103891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Report by correspondent Gennadiy Vinogradvo]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in St. Petersburg yesterday evening from Moscow, where the international conference on the human dimension has been taking place. At the U.S. consul general's residence, after a conversation between the U.S. secretary of state and St. Petersburg's Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak, a 15-minute press conference was held. Mr. Baker noted that he highly rates Sobchak as one of the reform leaders and said that this morning he would be leaving for the Baltic republics to congratulate them on their independence and to express solidarity to them. He will be returning to St. Petersburg this evening in order to continue the business meeting with the mayor to discuss the mechanism of economic cooperation with the United States and the West so that the Soviet Union may gain entry to the world economy.

Tomorrow the U.S. secretary of state will fly to Alma-Ata.

Khasbulatov Comments on Official Visit to Japan

Territorial 'Deal' Denied

LD1109224791 Moscow TASS in English 1538 GMT 10 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Vasiliy Golovnin and Vladimir Kuchko]

[Text] Tokyo September 10 TASS—Russia has no intention of turning talks on settling the territorial dispute with Japan into a trade deal. This is absolutely unacceptable to our public and any attempt to embark on this immoral path will bring about the downfall of any republic government, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze has declared.

He is a member of the Russian parliament delegation headed by the parliament's acting speaker, Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Russia's approach to relations with Japan can be reduced to two basic principles, Kunadze told TASS. Firstly, it is Russia's readiness to view in all seriousness the problem of the Northern Territories, including the southern Kurile Islands, which became part of the USSR after the Second World War. Secondly, it is Russia's desire to seek the solution of this problem on the basis of law and justice.

It is now quite natural to infer that Russians, who had given three days and nights to struggle for law and justice near their White House (the Russian parliament building), will uphold the same values in their international relations.

For them the question is not how much they can be paid. The question is whether one or another proposal or demand on the part of any of our partners is fair enough.

Everything that is fair, that is consistent with international law and, finally, simple human values should be implemented as it should be.

The Russian Foreign Ministry official said he was bewildered by publications in the Soviet and Japanese press aimed at picturing the desire to solve the territorial issue in relations between Russia and Japan as readiness to conclude a deal trading islands in exchange for economic assistance.

"There will be no deal at all," Kunadze stressed.

Russia has no differences on this point with the Soviet leadership. We approve in general what has been done and want to move on, together with the Union. It is inconceivable for Russia to act on its own by conniving with the Japanese and then make the Union face the fait accompli. This will not occur as long as the Union exists.

Russia believes the time is past when we divided countries into winners and losers, Kunadze said. This is a matter of principle because the end of such an approach relegates the post- war period to the past, with just a few problems remaining unsolved: our relation with Japan, the situation on the Korean peninsula and some European problems. Concerted efforts are needed to solve them.

This is the Russian leadership's approach to relations with Japan. It is by no means conditioned on economic assistance. Because of this we cannot fully agree to the Japanese Government's viewpoint on the inseparability of politics and economics.

"I am sure the longer they stick to that principle, the fewer chances they will have to achieve their objectives. It is in the interests of Japan, if it really wants to solve the territorial issue, to dispel suspicions dogging the public. For this, however paradoxically it may sound, Tokyo should start helping the Soviet Union and Russia in the first place straight away, without conditioning it with the progress in settling the territorial dispute," Kunadze said.

No Simple Solution to Kurils

*PM1109133791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
11 Sep 91 Union Edition p 6*

[Report by correspondent S. Agafonov: "Southern Kurils Are Not Moving to Japan, But Changes Are Possible on the Territorial Problem"]

[Text] Tokyo—At the end of last week and beginning of this a number of Soviet officials made public statements about the most painful problem in Soviet-Japanese relations—the territorial problem.

At first an anonymous source in the Russian Administration told the Japanese that in the new domestic political conditions there would be a very rapid and highly radical solution to the territorial issue. Then the Russian president in an interview with a Japanese television company seemed to leave everything as it was, confirming his commitment to the concept of five phases for settling the problem, the final phase being the responsibility of future generations. Then came Yavlinskiy's written responses to KYODO's questions in which he recognized the need to return Kunashir, Iturup, Habomai, and Shikotan to the Japanese in accordance with the 1855 Russian-Japanese treaty. Lastly, R. Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the Russian parliament, who has arrived in Tokyo on a visit at the invitation of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, outlined another formula with regard to the same matter which is, while based on Yeltsin's five phases, at the same time designed to speed up concrete steps, prepare public opinion, and effect a smooth transition to a different quality [of relations], something that was given no definite name either in Khasbulatov's statement or in the letter from Yeltsin that he took to the Japanese premier.

The upshot was that the "package deal" option proposed by many specialists here—the return of the islands in return for economic aid—once again failed to take place, thus confirming the obvious—that there can be no ordinary solution for the territorial problem and complex matters must be pondered together based on specific circumstances and common sense. This conclusion may seem somewhat premature since Ruslan Khasbulatov is only into his second day in Japan and many discussions lie ahead. But nonetheless it seems that there will be no sensations and the i's have already been dotted and the t's crossed as regards the main item on the agenda.

What are these dotted i's and crossed t's? First, there has already been an increase in the number of partners involved in Japanese-Soviet relations—probably for a long time to come—Russia has quite vigorously indicated that it is a full-fledged participant in dialogue on an equal footing with the center. Admittedly, there is still no Russian representative at the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo. What is more, Russia still has to decide a number of internal matters with the oblasts "under its jurisdiction." It is after all no secret that people on Sakhalin seriously lay claim to an "adequate role" in Soviet-Japanese relations as a whole and in the territorial problem in particular. Many Japanese representatives returning from Sakhalin cite their conversations with influential people on the island, the crux of which comes down to the fact that Kunashir, Iturup, Habomai, and Shikotan are part of Sakhalin Oblast and, notwithstanding the current trend for territories to become independent, any administrative redistribution is impossible without the local authorities' being involved. Given the Japanese mania for precision, that development is viewed in Tokyo with "quiet horror," but the Japanese cannot do anything about this and have to wait patiently until we ourselves sort all this out. Objectively the muddle in our country per se puts off the blessed hour when the territorial dispute will be resolved and this is something that Tokyo must take into consideration.

Another crucial element is the disarming pragmatism that our compatriots have introduced to bilateral dialogue. Khasbulatov, for instance, was the first Soviet spokesman not to wrangle with the Japanese over the link between economics and politics that Tokyo declares to be fundamental in its contacts with the USSR. He said that he respects both Japanese opinion on the territorial issue and the Japanese principle of linking economics and politics, but he then asked for economic aid in such a way as not to hamper Japanese approaches. This diplomatic flexibility stumped the Japanese and developed, in official wording, into a promise to do "everything possible" for the Soviets. What precisely will be possible is another matter, in this case it is important that there were none of the routine references on the Japanese side to political obstacles.

All this put together and multiplied by the continuing turmoil in the "Soviet melting pot" has, paradoxical as this may seem, introduced some balance to complex bilateral relations. When the regimes' were stable, "fundamental problems" surfaced, as did the inevitable mutual toughness in clearing them up. Given the present shaky situation in the Union, this tone seems to be beginning to give way to another, sensible tone, with a greater inclination toward compromise. Needless to say, this new tone may survive or may perish. The desire to "squeeze" the Union is still strong in Japan and there is a great temptation to get "historical justice" early. Will Tokyo resist this temptation. I would like to hope that it will—the times they are a changing, after all....

Notes Change in Attitudes

LD1309170491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0935 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo, 13 Sep (TASS)—The attitudes of official circles in Tokyo toward Russia have changed from caution to the considerable extent of trust, according to Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the Russian parliament.

His interview with TASS and several other Soviet journalists focused on the results of the five-day visit to Japan by the Russian parliamentary delegation headed by him.

"In relations with Japan, the republican leaders on the whole intend to proceed from the five-stage plan to solve the territorial issue and conclude a peace treaty, which was put forward by Russian President Boris Yeltsin earlier.

"This program was elaborated 18 months ago and in new conditions Russia is ready to revise and shrink the stages for the full normalization of relations with Japan, which were outlined previously. We may even abandon the previous approach altogether, although in principle we favor a stage-by-stage and gradual resolution of problems with Tokyo," Khasbulatov said.

He emphasized that the Russian leadership totally shunned previous notions that "we are the victors and Japan—the defeated side in World War II, which should listen to what we say."

"We proceed from the premise that Japan is our great neighbor and we should develop our relations as neighbors. To this end, we need to surmount differences and reach agreements. Therefore, we are prepared to speak about the territorial issue, mindful, of course, of the opinion of the local authorities and the population of the islands," Khasbulatov said.

"However, we would also like Japan to show an example of its participation in solving serious problems faced by Russia. Unpleasant though it was, I had to speak in Tokyo about massive economic aid from the Japanese state, the public, and the business community. We need from 8 to 15 billion U.S. dollars," Khasbulatov said.

"I think that this emergency assistance could begin as early as next December. We are prepared to have Japanese specialists and IMF and World Bank experts to monitor how aid will be distributed. This assistance should mean not only food delivery but should help create infrastructure, transport and distribution network. The Russian president, R.I. Khasbulatov recalled, can also appoint by his decree special representatives for this purpose.

He noted that he would have liked more concrete results from his visit to Tokyo, having confirmed that so far he had not received assurances from the Japanese side on providing aid. I understood, the leader of the Russian parliament noted, that Japan is still trying to orient itself toward the Soviet Union and Gorbachev. We do not, however, have contradictions with the center at present, and everything we do is sanctioned by the central administration. But it looks as if this has not yet reached the Japanese ruling circles, which demonstrate inertia and imagine that the world is as it was before the coup d'etat attempt in Moscow.

The new situation, R.I. Khasbulatov underlined, is that all relations with Japan could be built only on the basis of talks with Russia. This is not pretension—this is reality. He stressed that Russia does not renounce its own obligations and will pay its part of the USSR external debt—that is, 67 percent of the total sum.

Khasbulatov said Russia favored reducing the Armed Forces in the Far East. He recalled that he proposed to trim the country's military budget by 50 billion rubles this year and do it not at the expense of the personnel, commissioned and warrant officers living in poverty, but at the expense of military bases and the arms race, including the military infrastructure in the Far East. "I do not think we face a threat from Japan," Khasbulatov said.

On nuclear weapons in the USSR, Khasbulatov spoke out unequivocally for their concentration on Russian territory. He said former Soviet Defense Minister

Dmitriy Yazov promised to do it half a year ago but failed to fulfill this commitment. "At the same time, several types of nuclear weapons are deployed on mobile platforms outside the Russian Federation; potentially, they would be siezed by terrorists." Khasbulatov emphasized that Russia should stick to its unwavering position in the issue of nuclear weapons.

Sums Up 'Unsettled Relations'

LD1309204591 Moscow TASS in English 2025 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Victor Bezbrezhny and Nikolay Geronin]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—Acting Chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov returned home today from his trip to Japan. At Moscow's Sheremetevo-2 airport, TASS asked him to sum up the results of the visit.

"The unsettled relations with Japan are a headache," Khasbulatov said. "The war ended long ago but there is no peace treaty. The reason for this abnormal situation is rooted in the policy of our ruling circles who viewed Japan from positions of strength, from the point of view of relations between the winner and the loser. It is a sign of lack of respect for this nation to talk from positions of strength with that great economic and cultural power, which is playing a colossal role in the world.

"President Boris Yeltsin's message to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu sets forth with utmost clarity the substance of the qualitatively new moments of our policy with regard to Japan. One is a complete rejection of the doctrine which regarded our relations from positions of strength, positions of relations between the winner and the loser.

"Naturally what we have in mind is Russo-Japanese relations, not relations between Japan and the Soviet Union. At first we had a feeling that there was some misunderstanding of this important circumstance on the part of Japanese official circles. But we seem to have managed to achieve understanding on this score.

"Consequently, the entire spectrum of problems will be regulated within the framework of Russo-Japanese relations. We are taking it upon ourselves to settle the disputes and sign a peace treaty. The territorial question should be solved within the framework of preparation for the signing of a peace treaty.

"We must adjust very serious, good neighborly—truly good neighborly relations—with Japan. The islands adjacent on Japan must be demilitarized. We precede from the belief that no one is going to attack us, neither Japan, nor the United States, nor Germany, nor France, nor any other country. We should not be afraid of Japan, and cuts in military spending should not be seen as concessions.

"It would not be humiliating for us to appeal for help to the Japanese people. We mean major economic extraordinary aid, taking into account the burning issues in our society. This aid could be worth not millions but billions of dollars. Russia is a rich country, and we shall pay off all our debts.

"There was conspiracy in our country and there remains nourishing soil for it because it is rooted in poverty, impoverishment and popular discontent. This is why we should strive to change the situation in the country.

"The main pivot is our domestic reforms. At least four bills have been prepared—on ownership, on enterprise, on privatisation and on protecting foreign investments. Foreign investors know nothing about them.

"We have already created the legal basis for a mixed economy, but we have been restrained in our attempts to enforce these laws—by the centre, above all.

"Another level of resistance is provincial conservative bureaucracy, which sought literally to strangle legislative initiative. Now the situation has changed and we will ensure the triumph of the laws we adopted in the past 16 months."

Yeltsin Receives Vatican State Official

LD1409131791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1112 GMT 14 Sep 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Kozkin]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep (TASS)— Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] President Boris Yeltsin today held a meeting at the RSFSR House of Soviets with Jean-Louis Tauran, Vatican secretary for state relations.

As RSFSR Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev reported in an interview with Soviet and foreign journalists after the meeting "a verbal message from the pope was passed to Boris Yeltsin which expressed support in connection with his defense of democracy." The minister stated that in the exchange of views which took place, the thought was expressed that it would be expedient to establish systematic, official contacts between the Holy See in Rome and the RSFSR. "The thought was also expressed that the RSFSR leadership should support the return of several churches and religious valuables," the republic foreign minister stated. "The RSFSR leadership will help the Catholic Church occupy its proper place here."

Andrey Kozyrev emphasized that "a strengthening of ties with all religious orders is of great importance to us during the transitional period of reforms." "It is vital that this transitional stage does not see the revival of bitterness, but rather the rebirth of spiritual traditions. The Orthodox Church and other religions could play a major role here," he added.

The RSFSR Foreign Minister reported that "both sides are convinced that there are great possibilities for cooperation." In his words, an invitation for Boris Yeltsin to visit the Vatican was officially confirmed at the meeting.

Kolosovskiy on UN Bid, Relations With Republics

OW1309154391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Russian Soviet Federated Soviet Republic (RSFSR) Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Kolosovskiy by "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP) correspondent; place, date not given; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] **Russia and the United Nations**

About reports that Russia is going to apply for UN membership Andrey Kolosovskiy recalled republican President Boris Yeltsin's statement at the meeting with participants in the CSCE Human Rights Conference in Moscow. Yeltsin said that Russia had that right and would not rule out the possibility of using it in the future.

Kolosovskiy said the Russian Federation was going to participate in Soviet delegations at various UN forums and in the future to send its envoy to the USSR permanent mission at the UN. Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister believes that a great deal will depend what roads other republics will take. He said that Russia was not going to become the first republic to apply for full UN membership.

On the Soviet Delegation at the UN General Assembly Session

Asked why a representative of the Russian Republic had not been included in the Soviet delegation to the 46th UN General Assembly session, Kolosovskiy referred to the successive representation agreement between the Union authorities and republics (see "DP" of September 12 1991). Under that agreement delegates from all republics would be able to take turns at the UN General Assembly session as full-fledged members of the Soviet delegation. Kolosovskiy said that Russia was going to use that opportunity, the more so, since the General Assembly was going to discuss progress in the elimination of the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster.

The Russian Deputy Foreign Minister said that the successive representation agreement did not mean that the republican Foreign Minister Kozyrev wouldn't be able to go to New York to join the Soviet delegation, if need be. The Foreign Ministers of the Russian Federation and the USSR have "full clarity on the issue". "We are satisfied with this arrangement in general", Kolosovskiy said.

On the Council of Republican Foreign Ministers and New Principles of Relations Between the USSR Foreign Ministry and its Republican Counterparts

Asked about the RSFSR Foreign Ministry's position on the eve of the meeting of republican foreign ministers (it opened in Moscow on September 13 at 15:00; for details see IF [INTERFAX] news bulletins), Kolosovskiy said that it was well known to the USSR Foreign Ministry. On September 1 there was a meeting of RSFSR Foreign Ministry officials with the Foreign Ministers of other Union republics taking part in the CSCE Human Rights Conference in Moscow, so they have an idea of Russia's position, too. Kolosovskiy described the meeting as interesting and useful. He said that "at the horizontal level all republics have the intention to maintain contacts and cooperate".

Kolosovskiy formulated Russia's position in the following way: Throughout the transitional period, while a new state structure is still in the making, reforms, including those in the foreign policy, should continue. He believes that the USSR Foreign Ministry should become an inter-republican body that would coordinate republican policies and work out mechanisms of decisionmaking. The republics must have the right to decide what functions should be placed in the hands of the Union Foreign Ministry, such as disarmament. However, this does not mean that the republics would have no means to control the actions of Union bodies.

The RSFSR Foreign Ministry believes that alongside the council of republican foreign ministers, which can meet only from time to time, there must be working body for day-to-day cooperation. Kolosovskiy believes it could be formed by republican representatives and headquartered in Smolenskaya Square. The Soviet diplomatic service abroad would be reformed along these lines in the near future. There must be collective embassies, where republics will have their representatives alongside Union officials.

On Ambassadors' New Functions

"We should study the question how many embassies we should have and how big they should be very closely," Kolosovskiy said. He believes that must be done not so much to probe into the ambassadors' actions during the coup, as to enforce the principle that ambassadors must be appointed with the consent of all republics. "The ambassadors must be psychologically ready to represent the interests of republics, and not the Union ministry."

Local Affairs

Reportage Continues on Chechen-Ingush Situation

Supreme Soviet To Meet 15 Sep

OW1309231691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet of the Chechen-Ingush Republic is due to open in the city of Groznyy on September 15. The session plans to discuss the current situation in the republic and how to cope with the crisis of power. The republic has been swept by massive rallies in support of demands for the resignation of the parliament and the government. The demands were made by the national Chechen congress. Chairman of the Congress Executive Committee Dzhodar Dudaev emphasized in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] that nothing but the resignation of all bodies of power and the election of new ones would stabilize the situation in the republic.

According to IF, the issues connected with the convocation of the session were discussed at a meeting between the Russian Federation's state delegation led by the Russian State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis and a group of republican Supreme Soviet deputies.

In the meantime, a large group of Russian people's deputies arrived in the Chechen-Ingush Republic to help with implementing the Law on Rehabilitated Peoples of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic.

Independence Moves Cited

PM1609083391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
14 Sep 91 Single Edition p 2

[V. Kharlamov report: "'Wolf Under the Moon'. Our Special Correspondent Reports From Checheno-Ingushetia"]

[Text] Talks between the Russian delegation headed by RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Secretary of State G. Burbulis and the leadership of the Chechen People's National Congress [CPNC] Ispolkom [Executive Committee] have started under increased protection from republic guards. Posing as a guard, I managed to gain access to the talks and record part of the discussion.

Gennadiy Burbulis started by calling his trip a friendly mission sent on the instructions of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to clarify the situation in the republic. "Respecting the will of the Chechen-Ingush people," he said, "we will promote a constructive resolution of the situation." However, General D. Dudayev, chairman of the CPNC Ispolkom, having sketched out the state of affairs, started rebuking the Russian parliament and Government.

"As a result we managed to achieve mutual understanding on a number of questions," I was told next day by Z. Yandarbiyev, deputy chairman of the CPNC Ispolkom.

Registration for the republic guard continues in Groznyy. According to certain reports, the number of registrations has reached several thousand. The republic is setting up its own customs service, and customs posts are being established at the airport and routes out of the republic.

"Our main task," I was told by I. Arsanukayev, chief of staff of the republic guard, "is to maintain the stabilization processes and preserve public order."

The elaboration of new acts of legislation for independent Checheno-Ingushetia is continuing. The Chechen language is preparing to switch to the Latin script, and both the republic's coat of arms (the "Wolf under the Moon") and its national flag (two red bands on a green background) have been ratified.

So far the political situation in Checheno-Ingushetia is a stalemate. The Supreme Soviet, which exists legally and has not relinquished its powers, has no real authority. But, judging by everything, the new leaders—the Chechen congress ispolkom and the Vaynakh Democratic Party—have no clear-cut action program. Moreover, the old power structures are still in place at local level. In short, the situation is deadlocked, and the only solution is for all opposing sides to seek a reasonable compromise. Such proposals have been made, but they do not seem to be in demand as yet....

Guards Block Streets

OW1409184691 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1320 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An unauthorized meeting involving hundreds of people continues in Groznyy in front of the government building. Participants in it call for the resignation of the government and parliament of the Chechen-Ingush Republic. On Friday several protesters went on a hunger strike in support of these demands.

The government building is in control of National Guard units. The adjoining streets remain blocked. Public order is maintained by policemen and members of the National Guard.

Independence Issue 'Boiling'

LD1409232991 Moscow Central Television First
Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Sep 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Practically the whole of the country has now become a trouble spot.

[Correspondent N. Shebalkov] The tension that the capital of Chechen-Ingushetiya, Groznyy, has been experiencing over the past several weeks has now spread to other regions of the republic. Things are again boiling in Nazran—the Ingush question is again on the agenda. It is an issue that is complicated beyond all measure, since what is at stake is the restoration of statehood for an entire people. A delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the

Russian Federation has visited Nazran and attended a rally that is taking place here and in which many thousands of people are taking part. The speeches made by its participants differed, but all those attending the rally believe that an Ingush Republic must be set up within the composition of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic. It appears that the Chechens and Ingushes alike will each have a republic of their own. It is difficult at present to judge what shape this may take in practice; time will show.

Situation Remains 'Uncertain'

LD1409233891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1530 GMT 14 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 14 Sep (TASS)—A woman and a man have continued their hunger strike in front of the Chechen-Ingush parliament building into its fourth day. As already reported, they have one demand: that the republic's Supreme Soviet relinquish its powers without delay.

The state of the people is becoming critical. Wishing to defuse the situation, several dozen Chechen-Ingush people's deputies gave up their [deputies] passes right there on the square. But the situation, not only at the rally that has been taking place here in Groznyy without interruption since 22 August, but in the republic as a whole, remains exceedingly uncertain. Yesterday a packed rally gathered in Nazran, where Ingushes live. Those gathered basically support the actions of the executive committee of the national congress of the Chechen people, but at the same time are resolutely against the secession of the republic from the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR]. Evidently, the congress of representatives of this ethnic group which is planned for tomorrow will determine a more concrete stance of the Ingush people.

Alarming information is also arriving from the eastern rayons bordering on Daghestan. Today, the movement of a military column, driving into Daghestan from North Ossetia, was blocked on a bridge at the settlement of Gerzel-Aul, on the Rostov-Baku highway. Hundreds of people, including a considerable number of women and old people, closed the road and forced the column to turn back. Suggestions were heard that the soldiers were travelling to suppress the Chechens and the Akkins [akkintsy], defending their right to the land of their forbears in the former Aukhovskiy Rayon of Daghestan.

The processes taking place in the mountainous region are also being regarded with apprehension in the Cossack villages along the river Terek. So far opinions are being carefully expressed to the effect that they want to join Stavropol Kray. In such exceedingly complex circumstances a tense search for a way out of the crisis in Chechen-Ingush continues. Members of the special commission of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, headed by Gennadiy Burbulis, secretary of state, are meeting representatives of the opposing parties, labor collectives, and public movements.

'Provisional' Agreement Reached

LD1509203191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Video report on the proceedings of the Chechen-Ingush Supreme Soviet, including recorded interview with Ruslan I. Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, by unidentified correspondent in Groznyy on 15 September; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The extraordinary session of the Chechen-Ingush Supreme Soviet has just finished its work in Groznyy. Meetings have been going on in the city for over three weeks. All this time people have been gathering in the square, demanding that the republican Supreme Soviet be disbanded and that its chairman, Zavgayev, resign, as they failed to justify the people's trust. Let me point out that people moved today from the square to the building where the session has been sitting. They have been waiting for the results, and so it happened.

[Khasbulatov] The former chairman of the Supreme Soviet has been overthrown. The republican Supreme Soviet has been disbanded. It was replaced by a provisional supreme council of the republic, which is to exercise appropriate powers until the next elections. Yes, until the next elections. The government will function, of course. All the conditions will be created for them. We have agreed that as of today all armed formations are to be disarmed. They are leaving the streets voluntarily, so to speak.

[Correspondent] The meeting will end.

[Khasbulatov] The meeting will end. In general, I hope that we will manage to put an end to this conflict in practice already today.

Official Hails 'Triumph'

LD1509204291 Moscow TASS in English 1914 GMT 15 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Sh. Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy September 15 TASS—The Chechen-Ingush Republic, it seems, is beginning to get out of the political crisis which continues for the fourth week. The republican parliament's self-dissolution was announced at the just-concluded emergency session.

All legislative power has been transfered to a provisional council headed by USSR People's Deputy Lechi Magomadov.

The council, which includes people's deputies and representatives of the republic's insurrectionist democratic forces, has been instructed to organise and hold an election of new power bodies within two months.

At a rally here, these decisions were viewed in different ways. Some people are displeased that the council includes deputies that have lost people's trust.

National movement leader Dzhakhar Dudayev stated that the executive committee of the National Congress of the Chechen People would attentively consider and apparently somewhat change the composition of the council.

Acting chairman of Russia's parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov addressed the rally in the evening and appeared on local television, congratulating the people of the Chechen-Ingush Republic on the triumph of democratic forces and urging them to discontinue meetings and demonstrations, to disband armed groups and set down to work all together.

There is hope that people will heed the advice of their eminent fellow countryman.

Murashev Named New Chief of Moscow Police

OW1409011991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1245 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to well-informed sources, the Moscow police force has got a new chief. He is Arkadiy Murashev [spelling as received], USSR people's deputy and one of the leaders of the "Democratic Russia" movement. Mr. Murashev is an energy specialist by training and graduated from the Moscow Technical University.

Dnestr Official on Attempts To Remain in Union

LD1509185391 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Studio interview with Grigoriy Stepanovich Marakutsa, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Dnestr Republic, by unidentified announcer—live]

[Text] Grigoriy Stepanovich Marakutsa, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Dnestr Republic, is here with us in the studio. What are your proposals with regard to the way out of the difficult situation which has come about in the republic of Moldova?

[Marakutsa] We have put forward various reasonable proposals, in our view, to the leadership of the republic of Moldova. Taking into account the situation which has come about and the irreversibility of processes which have taken place in the Republic of Moldova as well as in the Dnestr Republic, and also in the Gagauz Republic, we proposed that a federation be set up of three equal republics within the former Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic, so that no borders are violated and the economic integration of all these regions is preserved, and so that each people could live according to its own laws and have some kind of political and economic independence. We thought that this would provide an opportunity to stabilize the situation and to allow everyone to live in peace and friendship, as we have done until now.

It is true, though, that this is on one condition—that the republic of Moldova itself remains in the Union of sovereign states, namely in the renewed Union. We know that Moldova is unambiguously heading toward leaving the USSR. All its actions currently confirm this decision. That is why, of course, it is impossible to preserve such a federation, or to set it up under these conditions. If Moldova definitely leaves the USSR, then there is one way to go. The Dnestr Republic would have to be recognized as a subject of the renewed federation of the USSR, taking into account the fact that this is the will of its people, which was expressed democratically at referendums and during elections to the Dnestr Republic Supreme Soviet.

N. Ossetia Councils Oppose Review of Borders

OW1209184491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1545 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] All local councils of North Ossetia, except a few in the Prigorodniy region where the Ingushes live, have categorically refused to have the republic's borders changed.

A proposal to that effect was contained in a draft agreement submitted by the Chechen-Ingush leadership to the North Ossetian Supreme Council. The draft proposed that the Prigorodniy region be transferred back to the jurisdiction of the Chechen-Ingush Republic (before the beginning of deportation of the Chechens from the region in February 1944, it was part of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Republic).

Bryansk Council Upset With Chernobyl Cleanup

OW1409002491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a meeting of the Bryansk District Council, the progress of the clean-up operation in the district following the disaster at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station was described as unsatisfactory. The Council declared that a review of the state structures coordinating the clean-up programme was necessary.

The Council appealed to Russian President Boris Yeltsin to visit the Bryansk District and see for himself how little is being done for those in the area suffering from the after-effects of Chernobyl.

Yakutiya Drafts Agreement on Selling Gold

OW1109124591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1030 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The presidium of the Yakutiyan parliament has drafted an agreement with Russia on terms of selling the gold and diamonds extracted in the republic. Under the document the republic shall sell 90 percent of its precious metals to Russia. Yakutiya also agrees with the Russian monopoly right to export gold and diamonds.

According to IF's [INTERFAX] reporter, the same session of the presidium decided to convene a regular session of the Yakut parliament on September 16. The proposed agenda includes such issues as the introduction of presidency in Yakutiya, amendments to the republic's constitution and the date of presidential elections.

Commissions To Ensure Jobs for Crimean Tatars

OW1109080991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Unattributed report: "Russia's Government Determined To Solve Crimean Tatar Problem"; Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Council of Ministers has ordered that executive bodies in regions and territories across the Russian Federation, as well as in Moscow and St. Petersburg, set up special commissions in areas where Crimean Tatars live in compact communities, to ensure compliance with the USSR Council of Ministers resolution dated 24 July, 1991, under which Crimean Tatars are to return to the Crimean Autonomous Republic and be guaranteed employment.

Media

Inspectorate Set Up To Defend Press Freedom

LD1309175791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1529 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Zenkovich]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (TASS)—A state inspectorate for the protection of press freedom and the mass media [gosudarstvennaya inspektsiya po zashchite svobody pechati i massovoy informatsii] is being formed under the Russian Press Ministry.

Deputy Press Minister Valeriy Andreyev said in a conversation with TASS that this organization is instructed to guarantee freedom of the press and the mass media in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic. Subunits of the state inspectorate will be set up in oblasts and autonomous formations [avtonomiya].

Union TV Facilities Transferred to Gosteleradio

LD1309190191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Report by announcer Yuriy Rostov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin today finally signed a protocol on alloting the property of Gosteleradio [State Committee for Television and Radio]. Here is that historic document.

The second all-Union television channel is given completely to us, Russian television, as is part of the correspondent's network and the TV center at Shabolovka. We will rent part of the Ostankino television center.

On the whole, there is hope that if everything goes as promised, provided that our Russian television bureaucracy does not stand in the way, "Vesti" will have more than its two and a half broken electronic montage devices.

Sobchak on TV, Radio Committee 'Transformation'

LD1209164191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak yesterday announced to a meeting of the Petersburg Television and Radio Committee work collective the text of instructions on transforming this structure. The instructions say that the preparatory work on its establishment be completed by 15 October so that the St. Petersburg State Television and Radio Company be formed on a share basis. Viktor Yugin was appointed Television and Radio Committee director to coordinate this work. He was formerly the head of the Russian Supreme Soviet's Media Committee.

In Sobchak's words, the founders will be organizations, including the Television and Radio Committee work collective, the mayor's office, the Leningrad City Soviet, the Leningrad Oblast Soviet and other organizations. Each will have one vote on the founders' council. Sobchak was assured that the technical and economic basis for the new television and radio company already exists. Moreover, Sobchak told the television and radio journalists about work on opening a second commercial television channel in St. Petersburg and about talks being held on setting up an international St. Petersburg television station soon to broadcast to Europe.

It was said at the work collective meeting that this instruction from the apparatus had not at all been agreed upon by the journalists. The journalists also expressed their concern that such a radical change in the structure and the decisionmaking process could have negative consequences for them. Such a disloyal tone in what the radio and television committee employees said merited a reply from Sobchak. In particular, he reminded the journalists that not long ago they had accepted Leonid Kravchuk's offer of an increase in pay and, at that time, announced their readiness to operate under the aegis of the All-Union State Radio and Television Broadcasting Company. They discovered their present moral deafness, Sobchak suggested, on 19 August, when broadcasting by St. Petersburg television of program for the USSR emergency committee was prevented. Of course, all of us have our shortcomings, but we now must set up an independent television and radio company for St. Petersburg, discarding inconsequential ambitions, Sobchak challenged. As the Mayor stressed, all these reforms will be agreed upon as a matter of urgency with the leadership of the All-Union Radio and Television Radio Company and with the parliament and government of the Russian Federation.

St. Petersburg TV Official on '600 Seconds'

LD1209214891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] The "600 Seconds" program should stay on the air but it should be done by other people. Viktor Yugin, the present manager of the St. Petersburg TV and Radio Company, began an interview with the newspaper VECHERNYY PETERBURG with this statement.

It has become known to a RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent that Viktor Yugin spoke to Aleksandr Nevzorov for several hours on 12 September. Nevzorov declined to reveal what had been discussed.

New Paper Published in St. Petersburg

LD1009211691 St Petersburg Maritime Service in Russian 1500 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] On 3 September, the first edition of the ST. PETERSBURG NEWS [Sankt-Peterburgskiye Vedomosti] newspaper appeared. The founders of this newspaper are registered as the Leningrad Town Hall and the labor collective of the editorial office.

On the program objectives and tasks of the new periodical, it is stated, among other things, as the dissemination of socially relevant information on the life of the city, the problems of the renovation and preservation of the cultural and historical heritage of St. Petersburg-Leningrad, the development of the region's economy, as well as the social protection of the interests of the population and the coverage of the processes of the further democratization of Russian society.

The newspaper's circulation is 55,001. The price of one issue is 10 kopecks and an annual subscription costs 30 rubles.

Belorussia

Opposition Supports Republic's Sovereignty

LD1309214691 Moscow TASS in English 1515 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By BELTA-TASS correspondent Yevregiy Gorelik]

[Text] Minsk September 13 TASS—"Belorussia's parliamentary opposition favours implementing the republic's sovereignty in full with the introduction of all attributes of statehood, including the inviolability of the borders, customs space and the republic's own currency," Vladimir Zablotskiy, a parliamentary opposition leader, told TASS.

"The ultimate goal of the reforms proposed by the opposition in the run-up to the opening of an extraordinary session of the Belorussian Supreme Soviet is to build a society-oriented market economy in the republic. It is necessary that an economic and trade codes be adopted in the republic as soon as possible, which should help eliminate the distribution system and establish market mechanisms," Zablotskiy believes.

He said solving the border issue was all-important in the present-day situation. According to Zablotskiy, Lithuania and Latvia will put up genuine posts and customs along the border with Belorussia in one or two months. "If the republic does not take retaliatory steps, our neighbours will gain full freedom of action on Belorussian territory. The Ukraine is going to adopt decisions similar to those made by Balts."

"Belorussia will be compelled to enact the money reform and introduce its own currency," Zablotskiy thinks. "Naturally, some assets, say part of the country's gold, diamond and currency reserves, for which Belorussia has the right, or foreign credits are needed to ensure internal or at least partial external convertibility of our money," Zablotsky said.

KGB Returns 82 Million Rubles to Budget

LD1409050191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1707 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By BELTA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Minsk, 13 Sep (BELTA-TASS)—The Belorussian Committee for State Security has helped to return more than 82 million rubles to the republic's budget since the beginning of the year. This was stated in a interview with the NARODNAYA GAZETA today by Petr Geydich, one of the leaders of this organization.

According to KGB reports, customs officials have confiscated a large quantity of jewels, Soviet and foreign currency, consumer goods, and works of art from smugglers. In addition to this, Belorussian Chekists have prevented the export from the republic of a huge amount of materials and machinery which are in short supply, have unmasked cooperative workers who were attempting to "carry out illegal import-export operations", have exposed—together with the militia—incidents of concealment of income by small enterprises and associations, and have curtailed dozens of intrigues by the trade mafia.

'Alarming' Decline in Meat, Milk Production

PM1609120591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by Mikhail Shimanskiy: "Belorussia Reduces Meat Production"]

[Text] Minsk—There are alarming reports from the republic State Committee for Statistics.

Over eight months 4 percent less livestock and poultry were sold than for the same period last year. Gross milk yields declined 10 percent.

An extremely alarming phenomenon, and here is why. Belorussia has traditionally been renowned for its high level of stockraising development, but the republic did not have an adequate feed base. The gigantic stockraising complexes were operating with imported forage. Today economic ties have been disrupted—and this sector of such importance has begun to ail.

The Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic government has adopted a tough stance: If the republic does not receive grain from outside it will not supply meat and milk to the Union. The reduction of the livestock population on the farms has begun.

Ukraine

Fokin Expects Treaty With Russia 'This Month'

LD1309202891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1825 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Cherkassy (Ukraine), 13 Sep (TASS)—Vitold Fokin, the prime minister of the Ukraine, has expressed his confidence that "the Ukraine will be able to sign an economic treaty with Russia on resuming ties" even before the end of this month. As reported by Ivan Sayko, a UKRINFORM correspondent, Fokin said this at the airport in the town of Cherkassy where he arrived from Moscow today, following his meeting with Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev. The Ukrainian prime minister noted that he had developed this conviction following "a very constructive conversation" he had with the Russian prime minister on 12 September. "We have finally removed many divergences in our views and coordinated our varying positions", he stressed. According to Vitold Fokin, the treaty will provide for a broadly based transition to market relations. At the same time certain regulators will be handed over to the state. The Ukrainian prime minister thanked Ivan Silayev who "has given positive answers or issued appropriate instructions on almost all issues".

Volunteers Registered for Self-Defense Force

OW1309235491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian InterParty Assembly began to register volunteers for service with the Ukraine's own armed self-defense forces. The first 100 volunteers have been registered.

The objective of the action is to counter possible aggression from the outside and to resist communist structures. According to the army organizers, these elements will form the backbone of the future Ukrainian army.

KGB Troops Seek Membership

LD1309222291 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The command and virtually all personnel of the motorized infantry division of the former USSR KGB special troops stationed in Kharkov Oblast have decided to join the republican guard of the sovereign Ukraine. The soldiers have appealed to the republic's government and legislature in this regard.

KGB Stresses Respect for Individual Rights

LD1409215691 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0000 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The KGB servicemen of Ukraine have issued an appeal to the people of Ukraine. In their appeal, they claim that the present day generation of the KGB servicemen serves and will serve the interest of people only [in] respect of their individual rights and abidance [as heard] by law.

The KGB servicemen are sure that concerted efforts of all the citizens of the Republic are needed to preserve and consolidate Ukraine.

Trade Agreement Signed With Israel

LD1509145291 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0000 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] As we have already reported, a delegation from Ukraine headed by the first deputy chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet, Volodimir Grinev, has visited Israel. As pointed out by Volodimir Grinev, the visit was a success.

Signed was an agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Economic Ties of Ukraine and the Association of the Chamber of Commerce of Israel on setting up trading houses. Besides this, talks were held with heads of two large banks of this Middle East country and businessmen on creating favorable conditions for Israeli investment in Ukraine's economy.

Oblasts Form Galician Economic Committee

LD1509062491 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 14 Sep 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Correspondent S. Savchak, identified by caption] The Galician Economic Committee was formed at the recent Galician Assembly—a joint session of Ivano-Frankovsk, Lvov, and Ternopol Oblast Soviets of People's Deputies. Its purpose is to coordinate the efforts of state authorities in the three oblasts to stabilize the economy of the western Ukraine and lead it out of crisis. The republic's Cabinet of Ministers has been asked to include a representative of the new organization on the State Council for Economic Policy.

[V. Pinzenik, chairman of the Galician Economic Committee, identified by caption] I regard the main purpose of the new economic committee as being to create a situation in which the committee is no longer needed, when state authorities won't need to interfere in economic activity. Unfortunately, now that the Ukraine's independence has been proclaimed, institutions of the administrative-command economy are being set up in our republic.

'Veche' Supports Sovereignty, Non-Nuclear Status

LD1509193191 Moscow TASS in English 1811 GMT 15 Sep 91

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondents Ivan Saiko and Viktor Demidenko]

[Text] Kiev September 15 TASS— An all-Ukraine veche (common council) took place here today, with thousands of city residents and representatives from other regions of the Republic attending.

All those present came out in support of the Ukraine's act of independence proclaimed by the Ukrainian parliament on August 24, this year.

Together with the act of independence, the parliament is known to have decided to hold a nation-wide referendum on December 1 for the people of the Ukraine to reaffirm their political sovereignty.

Participants in the veche believe that the referendum will be an additional reaffirmation of the Ukraine's independence.

Those present also favoured an immediate adoption of a new constitution of the Ukraine and the formation of its own army.

While supporting the non-nuclear principles proclaimed by the Ukraine, veche participants declared against the transfer of nuclear weapons to other states. They demanded that nuclear weapons be destroyed under the supervision of appropriate international organisations.

The Ukraine, speakers at the veche emphasised, should be a member of a European community of countries as a full and equal participant in world processes and seek international recognition of its independence, and the establishment of direct diplomatic relations with other countries.

Independent Trade Union Federation Meets in Kiev

LD1409043191 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] As we have already reported, an extraordinary session of the Federation Council of Independent Trade Unions of the Ukraine took place in Kiev today. A number of important documents have been adopted which determine the position and tactics of trade union actions under current conditions. The most important of these documents is the resolution to adopt a platform of the Ukrainian Trade Unions' priority tasks regarding the protection of socioeconomic interests of working people for the period of transition to market relations. It is noteworthy that not only representatives of the Federation Council of Ukrainian Independent Trade Unions agree with this document but also representatives of the Ukrainian Independent Trade Unions of Miners, the All-Ukrainian Association of Solidarity of Working People, the Professional Association of Working People's Solidarity, the Federation Council of the Trade Union of Workers of Cooperation, and representatives of other forms of free entrepreneurship. Kravchuk, the chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, addressed the session's participants. He also met with representatives of miners collectives.

Kravchuk Addresses Session

LD1509221591 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet met with active members of the republic's trade unions. Our correspondent Oleksiy Berezenko reports.

[Berezenko] At the beginning of the meeting Anatoliy Mykhaylovych Kovalevskyy, the chairman of the Federation of the Independent Trade Unions of Ukraine, expressed the views of participants of the trade union plenum, which lasted for two days. It was said, in particular, that the trade unions are anxious about the economic situation in the republic and about the fall in people's standard of living. [passage omitted]

Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, noted when speaking before active members of trade unions that trade unions of Ukraine had supported the act on the independence of Ukraine adopted by the Supreme Soviet. However, both the legislature, the republic's government, and the trade unions are now faced with a number of problems which cannot be settled immediately for objective reasons.

[Begin Kravchuk recording] Those economic ties that existed and that still exist at present have no material or legal effect which would enable their implementation to be ensured in reality, and the main thing is that there is no responsibility. I am saying this deliberately and I am putting the stress on responsibility.

If you take the formal side of the matter, we have treaties and economic agreements concluded with all republics but they are not observed. They are not observed for many reasons—for reasons of a fall in production—but it is a vicious circle. Production falls due to a lack of responsibility and discipline, then again, every time it is (?like a circle) which confirms the fact that we cannot control the economy. I say we, which means it is not only Ukraine but other republics as well, because the fall is general.

Therefore we came out with an initiative or a position which we stress in all government, interrepublican, and union structures. Our opinion is that we now have to stop any talk, simply stop—I am using this word deliberately—which would require spending time on anything but economic and social problems, because acute problems are being discussed, and they really are acute. We have been discussing the issue of what sort of union there will be, whether it is going to be a federation, a confederation, or a commonwealth. There is no real result yet.

If you put it more precisely there is a result. However it is quite opposite to what was said, because the Congress of People's Deputies has already confirmed that there is no union as such. It has fallen apart, because both the bodies of power that have been created, and the fact that we now do not have a Cabinet of Ministers or the Supreme Soviet—which there used to be—these facts prove that there is no union, that there are no bodies which would run the union.

The State Council will meet this coming Monday with all those interested, and we will try to adopt the basis, principles, and main directions of work in the economic union of republics. I, for instance, attach extraordinary importance to this. This is because, in my view, it is now the only way out of the situation in which we find ourselves. At present you can crucify me—let us take miners—quite rightly they say there is no mining timber, there is no timber. Russia said they would not supply timber yet. Then the question arises... It is true that we do not meet our commitments 100 percent, however one cannot understand what it is and what the reasons for it are if you put the question like this—to give no timber at all. Maybe the fact that we proclaimed independence serves as a reason for it. Then it means that no one has the right to determine their own way of development and should consider those who can stifle them economically. Is that equality, is that democracy? For example, we do tell other republics which proclaimed independence, which confirmed it, and which are now being accepted in the United Nations, that we will not give them goods only because they acted precisely this way. It is the right of the people. If you take this path it means there is already no democracy. [end recording]

The chairman of the Supreme Soviet dwelled on issues of protection of the consumer market and problems of providing people with foodstuffs. Moreover, he stressed that the creation of an economic union and protection of the interests of pensioners, families with many children, and servicemen are the main directions of work at present. This year, Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk said, when the economy is tumbling down, one wishes that both the trade unions and work collectives would correlate all their demands and requests with the situations that have taken shape in Ukraine at present. At the same time, he expressed a reassuring assumption that in the spring, or at the beginning of the summer next year, it will be possible to return to the prices, for most of the goods in day-to-day demand, that existed before 2 April of this year, if the republican anticrisis program is successfully implemented.

Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk answered many questions from those taking part in the meeting.

Crimean Supreme Soviet Discusses Coup Aftermath

LD1609040291 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The next subject of our discussion is the situation in the Crimea. It is one of the most politically active regions in Ukraine at present. The situation in the peninsula during the coup, and after, was discussed at the extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet of the autonomous republic. Hryhoriy Viktorovych Demydov, people's deputy from the Crimea, took part in this session's work as well. Our correspondent Serhiy Sysyun invited him to the microphone.

[Begin Recording] [Demydov in Russian] One has to say that the situation in the Crimea is complicated both in connection with all the events that took place in the country and the problems of the Crimea itself which were added to it. The situation was particularly aggravated by the fact that the autonomous republic has not been defined constitutionally until now, and there have been no practical bodies of power in the republic: neither legislative, executive, nor judicial. It is not known to whom the law-enforcement bodies were subordinate. The legal status of vacation places of statesmen on the territory of the Crimea is unknown. The legal system of rules on deployment of military bases and points on the territory of the Crimea is unknown.

Therefore what happened, properly speaking, was that the Crimean authorities found themselves without any power. And under these conditions they were in a fairly humiliating situation when the president of the Union was blocked on the territory of the Crimea. The government bodies of the Crimea did not have the authority or the opportunity to influence the events in some way, although everything was taking place on the territory of the Crimea. This, certainly, aggravated the situation.

Naturally, it was also aggravated by the fairly absurd statements that came from Moscow about reshaping borders, which roused a stir in an absolutely unnecessary and unconstructive direction. The majority of Crimeans, and in any case the majority of deputies of the autonomous republic's Supreme Soviet, took a centrist position and did not support these statements about reshaping borders of other republics and adopted a different decision.

You know that the session of the Crimean Supreme Soviet lasted a very long time. I think that extreme tendencies were successfully extinguished and a moderate centrist variant of settling the problem was found. The Crimean Supreme Soviet adopted, in particular, an appeal to the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine with the request to accelerate the process of defining the autonomous republic's powers (?according to the constitution and agreement). It is already a constructive approach, as you understand. Then the declaration on state sovereignty of the Crimea, in which it is stated clearly that the Crimea is part of Ukraine, was adopted.

[Sysyun] What is the essence of this declaration? The sovereign republic immediately rouses certain thoughts connected possibly with some sort of separation, if not territorial, then political.

[Demydov] No, the talk in this case was about constitutional determination of the autonomous republic as applied particularly to a state. You understand, there is a sovereign state and there is a state in it with a certain range of sovereign rights, in particular, with its bodies of power: legislative, executive, and judicial and the law-enforcement bodies.

[Sysyun] How serious are the voices, that can be heard, about the complete separation of the autonomous republic from the Ukraine?

[Demydov] One can hear such voices, let us be frank. However, as I have already said, the general direction that won was the centrist direction—a reasonable, balanced, and moderate one. [end recording]

Liberal Party Created, Announces Goals

LD1409172291 Kiev Radio Kiev in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] More than 300 delegates of the constituent congress that took place in Donetsk unanimously voted for creation of the Liberal Party of the Ukraine. As declared at the congress, the goal of the new party is the true reform of society in the interests of the people and the struggle for a life of dignity and plenty. The liberals see a solution to the general crisis in implementing democratic processes not in words but in deeds, by means of transition to a market, creation of competitive industry, and transformation of the sociopolitical system on the principles of pluralism.

The first congress of the Liberal Party of the Ukraine is expected to convene by the end of next year. It is clear even now, however, that the Liberal Party of the Ukraine will unite in its ranks mainly the leaders of industrial enterprises, entrepreneurs, economics scientists, and representatives of the creative intelligentsia. Speaking at the congress, Ihor Markulov, general manager of the IBL Soviet - U.S. company, stressed that members of the party will not have to pay membership dues. Its financial basis will be formed out of profits from commercial activities.

Chernobyl Official Leaves for IAEA Meeting

OW1309215091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet's Commission on Chernobyl, Vladimir Yavorivskiy, has left for Vienna to demand that the conclusions drawn by experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] on the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster be reviewed.

Last spring the IAEA delegation that visited the Soviet Union concluded that the governments of Russia, the Ukraine and Belorussia grossly exaggerated the actual negative effects of the Chernobyl accident. These conclusions were sent to the IAEA member nations, threatening to disrupt the provision of international relief for Chernobyl victims.

Kravchuk Meets World Jewish Congress Delegation

LD1309215191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1853 GMT 12 Sep 91

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Grigoryev]

[Text] Kiev, 12 Sep (UKRINFORM-TASS)—War criminals should be punished as they deserve, irrespective of how long ago they perpetrated their heinous crimes, stated Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress. He is heading the congress' delegation, which today went to the capital of the Ukraine in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Babiy Yar tragedy.

During the years when Hitlerites occupied Kiev, approximately 200,000 people, most of them Jews, were executed near the Ukrainian capital in a deep gully called Babiy Yar. The delegation visited the site of their execution, where a monument has now been built and where a memorial complex to the Babiy Yar victims will soon be erected. The delegation paid its respects to the memory of the dead.

The guests were received by Leonid Kravchuk, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. In the course of their conversation, Kravchuk noted that the Ukraine, which has proclaimed its independence, is for full equality of rights for people of all nationalities resident on its territory. More than 480,000 Jews currently reside in the republic, a third of the Soviet Union's Jewish population. "We want the Jewish problem to become a state problem of the independent Ukraine. We want everything to do with the material base, the building of schools, theaters, museums, and other elements of the Jewish people's spiritual life, to be a part of our state plans," emphasized Kravchuk.

Edgar Bronfman gave Leonid Kravchuk an economic plan for the Ukraine's transition from the command and administrative system to market relations, elaborated at the University of Columbia in the United States.

Ecology Minister Nominated for President

LD1509222591 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0000 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] A sitting of the Green Council of the Ukrainian Ecological Association, Green World, took place today in Kiev. The Green Council sitting was attended by representatives from all regions of Ukraine. On the agenda was the nomination of a candidate to run for the post of president of Ukraine. Nominated was the minister of ecology, leader of the Green Party of Ukraine and the Green World Association, Yuriy Shcherbak.

Government To Replace Rubles With Coupons

LD1509031691 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Four-color coupons for repeated use with water and magnet protection will be introduced into circulation in the Ukraine within a month's time. Lanovyy, the republic's minister for issues of economy and entrepreneurship, announced this at the meeting of political leaders of democratic forces of the Ukraine with Kiev businessmen. These four-color coupons are already being printed by a French firm. In the minister's view, new coupons should completely supplant the ruble. After that, in about half a year's time, they will be replaced with the Ukrainian currency of full value. It will also be made by foreign firms. The deputies' commission for issues of economic reforms of the republic's Supreme Soviet came out categorically against introduction of four-color coupons for repeated use.

Moldova

Snegur Submits Resignation to Supreme Soviet

OW1309173191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan President Mircha Snegur resigned as USSR people's deputy on Friday.

He thanked all those who had supported his candidacy but observed that "the leader of a sovereign country cannot be a member of another country's parliament."

Mr. Snegur called on other Soviet MPs from Moldova to keep their parliamentary mandates until all independence-related issues are settled.

Situation in Dnestr 'Markedly Deteriorated'

LD1409213291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1129 GMT 14 Sep 91

[From TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidedtskiy]

[Text] Kishinev, 14 Sep (TASS)—In the Dnestr region, women are refusing to remove themselves from railway tracks until the Moldova Government keeps its promise to release arrested deputies.

Over the last 24 hours, the situation in the Dnestr region has markedly deteriorated. As Boris Akulov, a Moldova people's deputy, informed a TASS correspondent from Tiraspol, picketing of the town's Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] headquarters began there today. The pickets are demanding that the Dnestr region assume command of local law enforcement agencies. According to Akulov, thousands of rail cars loaded with raw material for the republic, and fruit and vegetables from other regions have already accumulated along the picketed railway line. People's militia detachments are being hastily formed in the Dnestr region. In Rybnitsa alone, about 120 people have enlisted during the last 24 hours.

"We are alarmed at the appearance of armed checkpoints on roads leading to Bendery and Tiraspol," Boris Akulov noted. "Rumors are circulating in the town about a possible invasion."

"There is absolutely no possibility of force being used," Ion Koshtash, Moldova's minister of internal affairs, assured a TASS correspondent. "This point of view is also held by Mircha Snegur, the president of Moldova. But if the pickets attack MVD offices in Tiraspol and other towns in the Dnestr region, which, as you know, have not gone over to the separatists, the police will act in strict conformity with the law."

"As far as the armed checkpoints on the roads are concerned," he continued, "they have been set up in order to avoid clashes among civilians. The peasants are outraged that the produce which they have grown is rotting in the stranded rail cars. They have also begun blocking roads in the Dnestr region. If people do not come to their senses the process could become irreversible."

Kostash Reassures Citizens

OW1609145091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1050 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldova's Interior Minister Ion Kostash has dismissed the rumours that Tiraspol's police was placed under the jurisdiction of local authorities.

Speaking on republican TV on Sunday, I. Kostash declared that since early morning on Sunday, Radio Tiraspol had been saying that the city will be attacked by volunteers from the right bank of the Dnestr.

I. Kostash urged people in Dnestr region to maintain calm. "No one intends to use force or other measures against you," he said. "The means and forces at the disposal of law-enforcing agencies could be used to secure order now, but we'll not resort to bloodshed," I. Kostash said.

The interior minister likened the endeavors to kindle hysteria in Tiraspol to the "duping of millions of Germans by Hitler." He described the Dnestr region as the last stronghold of socialism.

Snegur Orders Talks Commission

OW1309211991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent in Tiraspol, the administrative center of the Dnestr Republic, reports that an official called over the telephone from Kishinev on Friday evening to say that Moldova's President Mircha Snegur had ordered the forming of a government commission for talks with the Dnestr Republic. The agenda, date and time of the talks needed further coordination.

The correspondent says the Dnestr authorities have begun to form a similar commission. The talks are expected to open on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the railway blockade in a number of cities on the left bank of the Dnestr River has continued. Activists of the Moldovan Popular Front have launched the "counterblockade" of motorways leading into the Dnestr Republic.

Kishinev, Dnestr Officials Talk

OW1409184191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] The 1st round of talks between Kishinev officials and representatives of the Dnestr Republic was held on Saturday in Tiraspol on the left bank of the River Dnestr.

According to local sources, Kishinev officials tried to confine the talks to issues connected with purely cultural and economic development and avoid political questions. As for the spokesmen for the Dnestr Republic, they demand that their republic proclaimed last year be recognized, and that all the deputies arrested on charges of giving support to the State-of-Emergency Committee be freed at once. Spokesmen for the Dnestr Republic also demand that the roads leading to their region be unblocked. [passage omitted]

Ministry Denies Official Talks

LD1309175191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1234 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (TASS)—The mass media has disseminated a report on talks between the leadership of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs and representatives of the Dnestr Republic. The public relations center of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs explains that there have been no official talks or protocol meetings between the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs and the above representatives. The conversation that took place at the request of a number of USSR people's deputies was of an informative nature. No decisions of any kind were elaborated during it. In its relations with the republics, the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs is guided by the agreements reached at the meeting of the leaders of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the republics on 30 August, including the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Moldova.

On the part of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, the wish was expressed that all conflict situations be resolved exclusively on a constitutional basis.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Banned

LD1309202691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1906 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Kishinev, 13 Sep (TASS)—The newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA is not to be printed or distributed in Moldova as of 14 September. This resolution was adopted today at a government session chaired by Moldovan President Mircha Snegur. The Moldovan authorities accuse the newspaper of publishing "material that misinforms" about the situation in the republic.

Speaking at the session about the situation in the Dnestr Republic, Mircha Snegur stated that the republic's government is not devoting sufficient attention to this region. In his words, this is not to be tolerated since the Dnestr Republic "is a constituent part of an independent and indivisible Moldova." To stabilize and improve the situation in the region, it has been resolved to set up a commission working under the aegis of the government.

At midday today a group of women arrived at the police department in Tiraspol (Dnestr Republic) and issued an ultimatum that the town's police department should have complete jurisdiction over the Dnestr Republic, which the Moldovan Supreme Soviet has declared to be unconstitutional. The women said that if the demand is not met then a blockade of the police building will commence. At a strategic meeting of the department, a resolution was adopted by the policemen to fulfill their duties in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Moldova.

In his telegram addressed to the chairman of the Tiraspol town executive committee and the town's acting procurator, Moldovan Interior Minister Ion Kostash stated that if the town authorities permit the blockade of the police department, then the law enforcement bodies will be forced to use all the means at their disposal, even weapons.

Tampiza on Ban

PM1609084591 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Sep 91 p 2

[Interview with Moldovan Vice Premier K. Tampiza by I. Chernyak in Kishinev on 13 September: "Evening Call to Moldova"]

[Text] At 1930 on 13 September, a KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reader called us from Kishinev: "The local television has just carried a report that KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA will not be printed in Moldova as of tomorrow."

In Kishinev, Moldovan Vice Premier K. Tampiza came to the telephone.

[Chernyak] How would you explain the decision that has been adopted?

[Tampiza] Your newspaper does not reflect the facts but distorts them. A recent item on the events in the Dnestr region was thoroughly mendacious. You only fuel passions. It seems to us that someone has an interest in this and that you probably received an order. But remember: Moldova was the second republic after Russia to recognize the illegality of the State Committee for the State of Emergency. Why does no one write this? We kept in constant contact with the "White House"—this is ignored. We have sent three food trains from Kishinev "To the fraternal Russian people from Moldova"—they are being held up in Tiraspol: a blockade. Why do you keep quiet about this?

[Chernyak] You are the second republic—after Georgia—to ban our newspaper. Democracy?

[Tampiza] To investigate objectively and only then make an assessment of events—this is how we see democracy.

[Chernyak] How long will the ban on the newspaper last, and do you intend to return the subscribers' money?

[Tampiza] We are prepared to resume publication of the newspaper, but only after a KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA team comes to Kishinev. We guarantee assistance and protection. Write objectively, and we will print tomorrow.

STOP PRESS

At 2130, a spokesman for the Moldovan prime minister reported that, following an agreement on a KOMSOMLSKAYA PRAVDA team's coming to Kishinev, the order was issued to print the newspaper after all. He gave his word.

Barannikov Responds to 'Interference' Charges

LD1509075991 Moscow TASS in English
0742 GMT 15 Sept 91

[Text] Moscow September 15 TASS—Soviet Interior Minister Viktor Barannikov has charged his Moldavian counterpart with "obviously biased interpretation" of Barannikov's meeting on September with a group of Moldavian delegates to the Supreme Soviet.

In his earlier telegram to Barannikov, Kostash described the meeting as "direct interference in internal affairs of a sovereign and independent state".

In his reply to the Moldavian minister's telegram of protest Barannikov points out that "the main thing is your continuing attempts to involve the militia and the entire system of the Interior Ministry bodies in the confrontation of different political forces and use the militia's service potential for purposes having nothing to do with the struggle for the establishment of the proper legal order and security".

"The danger of such a position has been repeatedly confirmed by experience, especially in recent years. Moldavia's bodies of internal affairs are no exception in this respect".

"In this connection, proceeding from the conclusions and assessments jointly worked out by us during our meeting on August 30," Barannikov says, "I consider it is my right and duty to warn you against erroneous steps and hasty, ill-considered statements which do not facilitate better mutual understanding and cooperation in accomplishing tasks of strengthening law and order and combatting crime."

Snegur Interviewed on Independence Proclamation

AU1409185691 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian
10 Sep 91 p 8

[Interview with Moldovan President Mircha Snegur by I. Madosa, in Chisinau (Kishinev) on 3 September: "I Expect the Romanians' Voice To Be Heard From Everywhere"]

[Text] [Madosa] Mr. President, we are experiencing extraordinary events at the end of the 20th century. These events include the developments in the USSR, the separation of certain republics, and the centrifugal tendencies that have emerged. Within this context, how do you view the recent proclamation of independence of the Republic of Moldova—an event for which we want to congratulate you most warmly?

[Snegur] I want to express thanks for the congratulations. You are completely right, radical changes are taking place in the Soviet empire, which most of the republics are trying to leave. Why? Everything has been very centralized. For a long time things were dictated to us, for 50 years, in fact. What I would like to say is that the Republic of Moldova has not emulated anyone else's movement toward independence. It has promoted its own policy. It promoted this courageous policy of decentralization and of being its own master at home since 1985 and particularly since 1987, when the democratic forces were organized. This has made the proclamation of independence possible.

Your question has a wider meaning, however. What is going to happen from now on? I can answer this with great conviction. By no means will the current leadership of the Republic of Moldova reverse its decision. We seek international recognition of our decision, creation of the necessary conditions, and everything they imply: Democratization and ensuring a high standard of interethnic relations (it is known that, aside from Romanians, 1.5 million Russians, Ukrainians, Gagauz people, and so forth are living in Moldova).

[Madosa] Actually, I just wanted to ask you what will happen? How do you view political, economic, and cultural relations with Romania and with the republics of the former union? What do you propose to promote in your foreign policy?

[Snegur] Our relations with Romania have already reached an advanced stage. We have signed an agreement on establishing diplomatic relations. We work toward cultural and economic integration. The "Cultural Confederation," as we call it, has already been operating for two years. The moment the border was opened a little, our sentiments and aspirations were obvious, even before the proclamation of independence.

We also seek economic relations with the former republics of the union. We start from the fact that they have been established and lasted 50 years. We need raw materials and fuel from them. That is why I think it would be a mistake to interrupt them all of a sudden. That is also why we will participate in an economic accord that could come into force in 1992. That's all. As for the rest, we are not interested in a political treaty, political community, or whatever it would be called. This is because we now have the possibility to look for other, more convenient communities.

Generally speaking, we will promote a foreign policy of peace, cooperation, and friendship. In this context, I think that it would be a positive thing if the Congress of People's Deputies agreed—as has been proposed—to support the independent republics in their relations with the United Nations. This is not exactly recognition of our independence, but it would be a measure that would raise our international profile. It would surely assist our independence.

[Madosa] What about the situation at home? How are things developing? Do you agree that the proclamation of independence creates conditions for the wide application of measures regarding the state language and the introduction of the Latin alphabet?

[Snegur] I would like to think and I hope that the proclamation of independence will help us solve domestic problems as well. At this point we are more concerned about the two pseudo-republics—Dnester and Gagauz. They are our major problem. I am sorry, but not everyone—including some deputies—understood the recent events. Consequently, they continue their foul actions to split our people and to strengthen separatist tendencies. Even today (3 September) the railroad was blocked in Tiraspol, Tighina [Bendery], and Rybnitsa. This is a disgusting method, even if women and children are involved. It is our duty as politicians to seek a way out of this situation. Anyway, we cannot free those who have been arrested and those who have supported the putschists. What is at stake here is the ambition of these leaders who are supported by the pro-Russian population, whom we have never blamed for not speaking our language. There is also fear that through nationalism we will try to force an annexation to Romania. In any case, we will continue to proceed along the road of peaceful conciliation, without the use of force. As politicians, we are duty-bound to use such methods to avoid bloodshed. If a single drop of blood was shed, it would mean that we have not fully done our duty.

In connection with the other problems, there is no doubt that independence creates favorable conditions for the use of the national language in instruction, in educational institutions at all levels, and in everyday life. We have already adopted a number of measures to this effect. A number of practical aspects arise in this respect, however, namely our modest material base in the lack of textbooks and so forth. We rely on Romanian help and we are convinced that we will overcome these difficulties.

[Madosa] In your view, what action should be taken in the future to regain the territories annexed to the Ukraine?

[Snegur] The way you put it, "in the future" is well put. This is, indeed, a problem of the future. Today this step would mean a great risk. We should not contribute to the deterioration of relations with the Ukraine where 500,000 Romanians are living. Likewise, there are 600,000 Ukrainians in Moldova. Therefore, what we have to do at this point is to not forget our brethren. We have to help them. This is the solution for the time being. As regards the future, we shall see. Let us see how things develop. It is difficult to anticipate.

Perhaps I assume too great a responsibility through what I am saying, but there is another question that concerns me. The situation is very sad. What happened to the Romanian territories is very sad. I want to see the 35 million Romanians stand together. I expect and want the Romanians' voice to heard from everywhere. It is not heard clearly from the south of Bessarabia. Even in Transdnester, what are the 40 percent of Romanians there doing? These are the thoughts constantly occupying my mind.

[Madosa] Are you satisfied with Romania's position on the 27 August act? How do you view its support in the immediate future?

[Snegur] We have no doubts that Romania will recognize our independence. We found a common language in connection with all mutual problems, particularly after my visit to Bucharest in February, despite certain misunderstandings that have emerged. We are now at the stage of opening embassies.

In the coming period, we would like to have support at the cultural level where things are actually progressing positively. We want to reestablish the National Theater. At the same time, however, we have to speed up economic integration by achieving the planned 100 joint ventures. We then have to clarify things in connection with our borders. We have to begin applying our accord on canceling visas, so that its provisions are not just stated on paper.

[Madosa] Mr. President, I would like to discuss numerous other issues. Perhaps on another occasion. What I would like to ask you now is to describe, in a few words, your political convictions.

[Snegur] This is difficult. Since you are asking me, here it is: A free, independent, and democratic Moldova with calm, balanced, and... European people. Whenever I visited a European country I was always impressed by the work and devotion of the people. Thus, my values are democracy, freedom, and a constructive spirit. I have never been fond of lazy people and demagogues.

[Madosa] Would you like to convey anything to our readers?

[Snegur] I am constantly at their side. I know that there are numerous problems in your country and I want you to solve and overcome them as soon as possible. By understanding each other, let us support each other in our converging actions.

SD on 'Possible' Reunification With Romania

LD1409110491 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0900 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The Social Democratic Party [SD] of Moldova has stated that the question of reunification with Romania remains a possible political prospect for the republic. However, the process should be solely on the basis of free self-determination of citizens.

Merger 'Inexpedient'

OW1309214791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The organizing committee of the Social Democratic [SD] Party in Moldova believes Moldova's merger with Romania would be inexpedient under the present socio-political and economic situation in both republics.

According to SD leaders, only the pooled efforts of the government, parliament, public movements and parties to ensure real independence for Moldova can bring the republic's progressive forces closer together, and prevent a further aggravation of the confrontation or disintegration of the state.

RSFSR Supreme Soviet Delegation Arrives

LD1609134691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1158 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Kishinev, 16 Sep (TASS)—An RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] legislative delegation has arrived here today at the invitation of the Moldovan leaders to examine on the spot the state of affairs regarding the rights of ethnic minorities. At the meeting with members of the working group of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet headed by Sergey Krasavchenko, chairman of the Commission for Economic Reform and Privatization, the Moldovan President Mircha Snegur stated that the political treaty signed between Russia and Moldova can be improved in the section concerning the rights of Russians residing in Moldova, and that new agreements on the rights of ethnic minorities can also be added to it. He noted that the republic is prepared to receive all the expert groups wishing to varify how the section of the declaration of independence regarding the observance of human rights is being implemented.

Forum Appeals for Recognition of Independence

AU1409173891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1600 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 14/9/1991—The Council of the Republic of Moldova's Democratic Forum met in a plenary session at Chisinau [Kishinev].

It adopted an appeal to all the peoples and parliaments of the world to recognize the independence of the Republic of Moldova. Another appeal to the residents of Transdnester asks them to give up confrontations and take the path of cooperation and conciliation.

The appeals were signed in thirty professional, cultural, social, and political parties and groupings of the Moldovans, Ukrainians, Bulgarians, Germans, Jews, Poles, Lithuanians all of whom are citizens of the Republic of Moldova.

Supreme Soviet Requests Human Rights Observers

LD1309200191 Moscow TASS in English 0859 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Kishinev September 13 TASS—At its closed meeting on Thursday evening, the Moldovan parliament decided to approach the participants in the CSCE conference on human dimension, which is currently in session in Moscow, with the request to send their representatives to the republic to study human rights and freedoms violation in Moldova.

Deputies said some of the press organs, radio and television of the USSR and several foreign countries have been giving biased coverage of current processes in Moldova, which prompted them to make this request.

Georgia

Gamsakhurdia Letter to Yeltsin on Republic Ties

LD1309132991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By SAKINFORM correspondent Eduard Ediberidze]

[Text] Tbilisi, 13 Sep (TASS)—Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia sent a letter to RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] President Boris Yeltsin in which he asks him "to influence, within his powers and possibilities, the anti-Georgian forces trying to drive a wedge between Georgia and democratic Russia." Citing false information on Georgian events in a "Television News Service" program, Zviad Gamsakhurdia says that Russian television, in particular the "Vesti" program, acts in the same way.

The Georgian president described a statement by a group of Russian deputies, who had accused him of incorrect pronouncements directed at the Russian president, as a deliberate lie contributing to the same information war against Georgia. Furthermore, the letter says, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet committees for human rights and for foreign affairs and the subcommittee for interrepublican relations allegedly published a statement on the Georgian situation, saying that "it would have been appropriate to consider the question of introducing conditions of a state of emergency in all areas of conflict" in Georgia—that is, on the territory of a neighboring sovereign state.

Confirming the republican leadership position on establishing truly good-neighborly relations with coreligious Russia, the Georgian president emphasizes that an interstate treaty between Georgia and Russia is essentially ready for signing, and he declares that the republic will be glad to receive the RSFSR foreign minister in the next few days.

Letter Assessed

LD1409170191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia has sent a letter to Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR]. We are providing it without any abridgement, and without commentary:

Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich, certain circumstances have made me address a letter to you. As you know, on 2 September a clash took place between the republican militia and demonstrators in Tbilisi. Three people received bullet wounds. Ever since then, Central Television and the Soviet press have, basically, been organizing a campaign to discredit democratic Georgia. All this is taking place despite my statement that the leadership of Georgia did not give orders to disperse those at the meeting, and despite the fact that after an investigation is carried out those found guilty, no matter who they are, will be brought to book.

The "Television News Service" program, for example, is acting in the best traditions of the "Vremya" program: first it shows shots of the meetings in support of the Georgian Government, making the commentary that these are meetings of the opposition, then it states that an attack on the National Guard is expected, and finally it states that this attack has already been carried out, that there are 67 wounded and killed, and so on this goes. Russian Television is acting in the same way—in particular the "Vesti" program, the letter from Zviad Gamsakhurdia says.

The Republic of Georgia is a sovereign state, and we would like to ask you to assert influence, within the limits of your responsibilities and possibilities, on the anti-Georgian forces which are attempting to drive a wedge between us and democratic Russia. By the way, a group of Russian deputies has accused me of discourteous remarks about you, which is a deliberate lie and serves into the hands of the same information war which is being unleashed against Georgia.

Moreover, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Committees for Human Rights and International Affairs, and the Subcommittee for Interrepublican Relations, have proposed that the issue of introducing a state of emergency in all the conflict regions in Georgia be given consideration—that is, on the territory of a neighboring sovereign state. Mr. President, you are acquainted with our position. We are supporters of establishing really good-neighborly relations with co-religious Russia. A treaty on the basics of interstate relations between our countries is essentially ready for signing, and we would be glad to receive the RSFSR foreign minister in the next few days. Allow me to assure you of the deep respect I feel toward you personally and toward the leadership of Russia.

Foreign Ministry Protests Russian 'Interference'

LD1309164191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1218 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Kochefkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 13 Sep (TASS)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia has expressed a resolute protest in connection with the statement by a number of Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet committees.

The Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs circulated a letter today addressed to the RSFSR Foreign Policy department. It describes the statement by the Russian parliamentarians as a crude interference into the internal affairs of the Republic, as a threat of armed intervention, and as an attempt to discredit the Georgian leadership.

Expressing its disagreement with the assessments of the situation in the Republic set out in the statement of the Russian parliamentarians, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia has set out its version of the reasons for instability in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. It is asserted in particular that "armed bandit formations engaged in terror, murder, and robbery are being sent to the territory of Georgia from RSFSR territory, from the territory of so- called South Ossetia, and that large consignments of weapons are being brought in for extremists. Over the entire time of the conflict the Russian authorities have failed to take any serious steps at all to prevent the infiltration of bandit groups and the import of weapons to the territory of the Georgian Republic, which made the settlement of the conflict impossible."

President Issues Decree on Internal Troops

LD1409202691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1851 GMT 14 Sep

[Text] Tbilisi, 14 Sep (TASS)—A decree by Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia on setting up internal troops in the republic—in addition to OMON and the National Guard, which already exist—was published today. It was proposed that the Ministry of Economy and Finance provide the new armed formations with a wage fund.

Parliament Session To Discuss Opposition Demands

AU1509130491 Paris AFP in English 0841 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Tbilisi, Sept 15 (AFP)—The Georgian parliament opened a special session on Sunday to discuss opposition demands for the resignation of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

As the debates began behind closed doors, some 50 opposition and breakaway ruling-party deputies threatened to walk out if the proceedings were not televised live, according to a deputy. Their walkout would deny a quorum for the session.

Officials said foreign and Russian journalists had not been allowed in because of a lack of seats.

The session was called following a series of protest demonstrations led by a united opposition front, joined by several deputies from the ruling party, to obtain Gamsakhurdia's resignation.

The protestors have accused the president of using autocratic methods and of accommodating last month's failed Soviet coup attempt.

The session was held in the large white building which formerly housed the headquarters of the Central Committee of the Georgian Communist Party, banned in the wake of the coup.

The building in the center of Tbilisi was surrounded by security forces early Sunday and all access roads were blocked off.

Media Coverage Delays Opening

LD1509145591 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1300 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] The main question to be discussed at the session of the Georgian Supreme Soviet, which opens today, is point 20 on the agenda. It calls for the setting up of a parliamentary commission to investigate the tragic events which took place in the center of Tbilisi on 2 September. However, the opening of the session is being delayed due to the fact that the deputies cannot decide on whether or not to have television and radio coverage.

Opposition Demands Resignation of Gamsakhurdia

OW1309231791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Representatives of 27 opposition parties in Georgia and the Democratic Centre faction at the Supreme Soviet unanimously demanded the resignation of Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Attending the meeting was chairman of the Georgian Supreme Soviet's Committee for External Affairs Tedo Paatashvili, one of the leaders of the ruling bloc Round Table—Free Georgia, reports IF [INTERFAX] from Tbilisi.

An all-Georgian conference of opposition forces is planned to be held in the near future.

Seeks 'Progressive Forces' Support

OW1309181091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian Social Democratic Party [SDP] has addressed all democrats to state that "relying for support on the non-Bolshevist ruling bloc 'Round Table-Free Georgia', President Zviad Gamsakhurdia has imposed on Georgia a totalitarian regime and concentrated all power in his own hands."

The SDP appeal says the Round Table has organized a series of public rallies at which the president called for the physical extermination of the opposition, which the Social Democrats interpreted as a call for civil war.

The SDP asks all progressive forces to give moral support to the Georgian democrats "fighting against totalitarianism."

Issues Appeal to Yeltsin

LD1509132491 Moscow TASS in English 1239 GMT 15 Sep 91

[By TASS corrrespondents Albert Kochetkov and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Tbilisi September 15 TASS—Georgia will never put up with any form of totalitarianism, the Georgian National Democratic Party's Central Committee said today in an address to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The text of the appeal has been read out through loudspeakers installed in the window of the party's headquarters in central Tbilisi.

The address stresses that the republic's democratic opposition is fighting to topple the neo-Bolshevik dictatorship and establish genuine democracy in Georgia.

The political opponents of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia of Georgia set out their position with regard to the conflict in South Ossetia. According to the National Democratic Party, the conflict was instigated by reactionary forces in the centre and realized by local agents provocateur representing the Georgian and Ossetian sides.

Georgia's democratic forces, the appeal to the Russian president says, have declared that after democracy triumphs in the republic they will be able to settle the conflict by themselves and restore good-neighbourly relations between Georgians and Ossets.

Deputies, Others Adopt 'Civic Peace' Charter

AU1309153191 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 13 Sep 91

["Full text" of "Charter 91—The Defense of Universal Civic Peace in Georgia" adopted by a group of Georgian Supreme Council deputies, representatives of the public, and members of political parties with the blessing of the Georgian Catholicos-Patriarch Iliya II, in Tbilisi; date not given]

[Text] With the blessing of the most holy and beatific Iliya II, catholicos-patriarch of All-Georgia.

A group of deputies from the Georgian Supreme Council, representatives of the public, and members of political parties have adopted "Charter 91—The Defense of Universal Civic Peace in Georgia."

Here is the full text of the charter:

Feeling the greatest responsibility before the nation of God and our descendants, taking into account the essence and importance of the historical moment, the ferocity of the opposition of political forces, and the prospects for the possible undesirable development of events, and aiming for the establishment of universal civic peace in Georgia, we, the undersigned, publicly state the following:

1. Our aim is the restoration of Georgia's state independence and the establishment of a sovereign democratic state that should become a subject of international law enjoying equal rights and an indivisible part of the free world.

2. The builder of such a state and its defender can only be a free citizen, an individual who has finally escaped the captivity of a totalitarian regime by overcoming the [word indistinct] that, for years, has been instilled in the people's consciousness.

3. In spite of the current difficult political situation, it is inadmissible to establish barracks discipline in public life by means of the restriction of fundamental human rights. Slogans that are being spread in our country such as "first independence, then democracy" are harmful and the ideological conviction contained in them is, first and foremost, hindering the struggle for independence.

4. We deem it essential to implement and raise to the rank of state policy the fundamental ideas formulated in the UN Declaration of Human Rights and in the Helsinki, Madrid, Vienna, and Paris final documents that will contribute to the rapprochement of the prevailing directions of world politics and Georgian national interests.

5. There is a need for the radical liberalization of public life. It is necessary to implement the complete delimitation of legislative, executive, and legal power, put an end to the suppression of free thought and expression, implement civilized, constructive, and constitutional methods of [waging] a political struggle, open the way to market economic and private enterprise initiatives, resolve the agrarian problem, and curb the corrupt mafia that is resisting a radical change to the existing system. The builder of a free country and the free man must become the state's principal driving force.

6. All manifestations of violence must be categorically condemned. Arms should only be raised against an aggressor and in defense of the nation's honor and the territorial integrity of the motherland. However, our internal political disagreements must be resolved by means of peaceful dialogue and without the interference of external forces.

It is our hope that, on the basis of the fundamental principles enumerated, it will be possible to establish civic peace in Georgia.

We call upon those to whom the aspirations in the above mentioned document are acceptable to join the ranks of the signatories.

[Signed] Tedo Paatashvili, Gela Chorgulashvili, Merab Urigia, Tengiz Dikhamindia, Malkhaz Kvantilashvili, Gela Koberidze, Irakli Melashvili, Eldar Shengelaya [prominent film director], Gia Buadze [prominent actor], Lana Ghoghoberidze [prominent film director], Merab Kokachashvili, Tengiz Abashidze [prominent film director], Koba Imedashvili [prominent actor], Akaki Bakradze [prominent intellectual], Nodar Natadze [chairman of the Popular Front and the parliamentary opposition fraction "Democratic Center"], Guram Bechanashvili [prominent writer], Irakli Sidamonidze-Tsereteli, and others.

'Vesti' Assesses Political Situation in Republic

LD1409053691 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Sep 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The fragile balance between the government and the opposition was preserved in Georgia today. Protest rallies continued.

To all appearances, the balance of forces in Georgia has begun to change in favor of the opposition, although rather slowly. A fundamentally important event in this respect took place the day before yesterday when an alliance of 26 parties, which could not find a common language before, was formed. These parties were united on the basis of calls for the resignation of Gamsakhurdia. Gamsakhurdia firmly insists that he does not intend to resign from his post.

Criticism of the president of Georgia is concentrated no longer just upon accusations of totalitarianism but of his policy leading not so much to Tbilisi's independence as its isolation in the international arena and to poverty. Strict censorship of television, represssions against newspapers, Gamsakhurdia's attempts to exclude the opposition totally from the political life have led already to difficulties in Georgia's mutual relations, for instance, with the United States.

Although Gamsakhurdia won a legitimate and on the whole convincing victory at the May elections, there are now legitimate grounds, in any event, for new parliamentary elections. The activity of the Communist Party has been banned in Georgia and the parliament thereby has been deprived of 60 deputies from the communists. It is interesting that if new elections are announced now the supporters of Gamsakhurdia would most likely win, despite the protests from the cities. The conservative provinces, according to assessments, still support the president. [video shows scenes of demonstrations where participants carry placards with Georgian slogans and clips of Gamsakhurdia]

Continued Protests, Protestors' Demands Cited

AU1409145691 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Yesterday, rallies were held in Tbilisi outside the headquarters of the National Independence Party, in the courtyard of Tbilisi State University, and outside the Georgian State TV and Radio Broadcasting Department building.

Protest actions are taking place outside School Number One [adjacent to the government building on Rustaveli Prospect], the Opera House [located on Rustaveli Prospect], and the Art Gallery [located on Rustaveli Prospect]. THey are continuing to demand the resignation of the president, the establishment of democratic principles in Georgia, and freedom of the press, TV, and radio.

Supreme Council Chairman Holds News Conference

AU1309152191 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1345 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] A broad range of issues connected with the [words indistinct] situation, the agenda of the forthcoming session, and [word indistinct] of the supreme organ of state power determined the content of the news conference held on (?12) September by Akakiy Asatiani, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia for representatives of the foreign mass media. Answering the question concerning the events that are now taking place in Georgia and the kind of support that foreign countries are giving to the legitimately elected authorities, Akakiy Asatiani stated that [words indistinct] and stressed that Georgia will sort out its problems on its own, no matter how difficult they might be. Incidentally, he was asked whether the 15 September session will discuss the political situation in Georgia. The parliament chairman answered that the situation that has taken shape will be dealt with during the discussion of the question on the creation of a Supreme Council commission on the investigation of the [word indistinct] that took place in Tbilisi on 2 September. However, if the deputies decide to discuss it separately, this question will be put on the agenda.

Supreme Council Issues 15 Sep Meeting Agenda

AU1309165591 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Here is the agenda for the first meeting of the second session of the Republic of Georgia Supreme Council of the first convocation:

1. On the members of the Republic of Georgia Supreme Council who have been elected from the Georgian Communist Party.

2. On the suspension of the rights of Republic of Georgia Supreme Council deputies Gulua and (?Okuchava).

3. Statement by the Republic of Georgia Supreme Council [words indistinct] Credentials Committee.

4. On the ratification of the declaration of human rights.

5. On the inclusion of the Republic of Georgia into the Helsinki CSCE Final Acts and the Vienna CSCE final documents.

6. Messages to the United Nations and the world's states.

7. On the status of the USSR Armed Forces deployed on the territory of the Republic of Georgia.

8. On the nationalization of property belonging to enterprises and organizations that are subordinate to the Union located on the territory of the Republic of Georgia.

9. On the state customs of the Republic of Georgia.

10. On the air space of the Republic of Georgia.

11. On the creation of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense.

12. On the Republic of Georgia Supreme Council Permanent Legal Commission.

13. On the release of Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Gulua from his post as chairman of the Republic of Georgia Supreme Council Permanent Commission for Industry, Energy, Construction, Transportation, and Communications.

14. On the appointment of Batoni Gulua as Republic of Georgia deputy prime minister.

15. On the release of Giorgi Khoshtaria from his post as Republic of Georgia minister of foreign affairs.

16. On the appointment of Muram Omanidze as Republic of Georgia first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

17. On the release of Otar Khvilikaia from his post as deputy chairman of the Republic of Georgia Government.

18. On responsibility for violating law and order and for organizing and holding rallies, demonstrations, and other political actions.

19. On the procedure for organizing and holding rallies, demonstrations, and other political actions.

20. On the creation of a Supreme Council commission to investigate the incident of 2 September 1991.

Sigua Demands Radical Economic Reforms

OW1409002191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ex-Georgian Premier Tenghiz Sigua declared that "judging by the developments in recent months, the republican leadership did not plan to deliver on their election promises." According to him, "an economic reform, privatisation, land denationalisation, etc. is virtually being thwarted."

According to SNARK news agency, Sigua is now at a base of the national guards units at the village of Shavnabad near Tbilisi that refuse to obey commands of the Georgian authorities. He also said that "liberal opposition did not raise the question of the resignation of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia: it was suggested by the radical parties." According to Sigua, the liberals, including himself, demanded the freedom of speech and the press and the beginning of radical economic reforms.

"No one will recognize us after independence if we do not embark on the democratic road of development," emphasized the ex-Georgian premier.

Sigua was ousted on August 17, together with Foreign Minister Georgi Khoshtaria.

South Ossetian Situation Beginning To Stabilize

LD1409130291 Moscow TASS in English 1132 GMT 14 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz September 14 TASS—Over the past 48 hours, the socio-political situation in South Ossetia, which is part of the Republic of Georgia, has tended to stabilise.

Armed clashes between feuding sides came to a standstill on the outskirts of Tskhinvali and in Dzhava district where the state-of-emergency regime is in effect, as well as in the villages of Tskhinvali and Znauri districts. Only at night, sporadic shots could be heard. No information about loss of life has come.

According to the South Ossetian socio-political organisation Rukhs (light), the lull is connected with the fact that an attempt has been made, on the initiative of representatives of Tskhinvali-stationed USSR Interior Ministry troops, to establish a negotiating process between the leaders of Georgian armed groups and the local population.

On the whole, the situation in the autonomous region remains strained so far. There is a large number of armed militants in Znauri district on the approaches to Tskhinvali. They are in control of all detours leading to the state-of-emergency area and blockade the delivery of humanitarian supplies from Vladikavkaz. Motor convoys can ride along the Dzhava-Tskhinvali highway only under the protection of combat hardware.

For fear of resumption of punitive operations on the part of militants, the seizure of hostages and motor vehicles, residents of South Ossetia villages are again abandoning their homes and via the Rok pass are heading for North Ossetia.

According to unofficial data, the number of refugees in Vladikavkaz is already nearing 100,000. The problem of accommodating them is acute in the republic.

A meeting of the Presidium of the North Ossetian parliament took place in Vladikavkaz, with the position of refugees from South Ossetia considered.

Parliamentarians believe that the problem of refugees from Transcaucasia has developed into an all-Union one. By acting alone, North Ossetia is unable to resolve it and that an urgent help on the part of the Russian Government is necessary.

It has become known from competent sources that South Ossetia is raising the question of the autonomous region's reunification with the Russian Federation before the Russian parliament. But a final solution to this no easy issue can be provided only by a referendum on the territory of South Ossetia.

Situation 'More Tense'

AU1409145991 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The political situation in Samachablo [South Ossetia] is becoming more tense as a result of the unbridled actions of extremists.

Yesterday an armed band attacked the village of [name indistinct] in Gori rayon where they kidnapped 12 people and 140 cattle.

As a result of appropriate actions taken by the Gori prefecture and militia workers, the kidnapped persons and cattle have been returned.

Call To Annul Abkhazia Referendum Result

LD1209161291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1042 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Tbilisi, 12 Sep [SAKINFORM-TASS]—Vakhtang Razmadze, procurator general of Georgia, has called on Vladimir Orlov, chairman of the USSR Central Electoral Commission, to annul the results of the all-union referendum in the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic, which was held on 17 March. SAKINFORM reports today that in a letter sent to Orlov, based on the results of an inquiry carried out by the Georgian procurator, Vakhtang Razmadze rejected the official data published by the central commission. According to this data, 52.3 percent of the overall number of voters took part in the referendum in Abkhazia for the preservation of the union.

It has been established by the inquiry, the letter says, that by means of falsification and illegally compiled lists and the same voters voting in more than one constituency, their numbers were artifically inflated. According to the inquiry, the letter notes, the actual number of those who took part in the plebiscite in this autonomous republic was only 48.2 percent, i.e. less than half the overall number of voters.

Circulation of 'Hostile State' Newspapers Blocked

LD1409161591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1040 GMT 14 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Tbilisi, 14 Sep—In reply to the "Soviet press' war of information", the authorities in Georgia have today announced an information blockade: the printing and circulation of newspapers of "a hostile state" has been halted in the republic.

Also today a "women's meeting" is expected in the capital—supporters of the ruling "Round Table" political bloc. In the view of these representatives of the fair sex, the incident which took place on 2 September was nothing less than "an attack on members of the law enforcement bodies by the armed opposition".

Armenia

Train Hijacked, 84 Passengers Taken Hostage

LD1309213591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Sep 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] If the northern junction of the Idzhevan station has been idle for quite a while already—for instance, over the past two weeks of September, workers have only been here for three days—then the southern station of Norashen, contiguous with Nakhichevan, has been closed since yesterday evening. According to data of the Armenian Ministry of Internal Affairs, yesterday a group of irresponsible persons—they have already been arrested—drove off a herd of cattle from Nakhichevan territory. Two shepherds were also taken hostage. The cattle have been found. However, the search for the people continues.

This has also served as the reason for a new escalation of tension. In response the Azerbaijani side has hijacked a (?Kopan)-Yerevan train travelling through the territory of Nakhichevan with all its passengers. It is still at Ordubad station. The women and children have been released. However, 84 passengers are being held hostage. Negotiations are being conducted, but so far the movement of trains into Armenia has been completely suspended.

As is known, the parliament of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic has decided not to conduct elections for the president of Azerbaijan. Moreover, a statement has been adopted in which the actions of Mutalibov are described as dictatorship, breaking the norms of democracy, which is a consequence of the course of the Azerbaijani Communist Party Central Committee. It is not out of the question that Mutalibov will decide to apply force. However, according to certain data, the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic has 30,000 soldiers in its self-defense forces.

Seventy Hostages Released

AU1509131091 Paris AFP in English 1256 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, Sept 15 (AFP)—Seventy Armenian train passengers who were taken hostage by Azeris on Friday have been released, but 14 others are still unaccounted for, the Azerbaijani news agency Assa-Irada said Sunday.

The hostages were released late Saturday at Urdubab in the autonomous republic of Nakhichevan, a predominantly Azeri enclave which forms part of Azerbaijan but is inside Armenia.

Armenian authorities said 14 passengers were still missing, and Azerbaijani officials have agreed to investigate.

The hostage drama began Friday when Azeris stopped a train on the line between the Armenian capital Yerevan and the Azeri capital Baku and took passengers hostage in protest against the kidnapping of two Azeri shepherds by Armenian groups.

The bodies of the two shepherds, 23 and 43 years old, were found by a helicopter search party on a mountain at an altitude of 3,000 metres (10,000 feet). They had been tortured and even their dog had been killed.

The discovery sparked demonstrations in Nakhichevan, with protesters demanding the extradition of the killers to Azerbaijan.

Armenians handed over more than 1,200 stolen sheep, after which the train and its passengers were allowed to leave.

Armenia and Azerbaijan, both republics of the crumbling Soviet Union, have been at odds over Armenia's claim on the region of Nagorny-Karabakh, an Armenian-inhabited enclave withing Azerbaijan.

Kidnapping and armed clashes on the border between the two republics occur almost daily.

Talks Between Ter-Petrosyan, Nakhichevan's Aliyev

OW1409182791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of Armenia's parliament Levon Ter-Petrosyan and his counterpart in the Nakhichevan autonomous republic Geydar Aliyev had a telephone conversation on Friday to confirm the earlier agreements on joint actions designed to stabilize the situation in the areas adjoining their common border.

As IF [INTERFAX] reported previously, Tuesday night armed Armenians stole a herd of farm animals in Ordubad region and captured 2 shepherds. In retaliation local residents blocked railway tracks and detained a train en route between Kapan and Yerevan with Armenian passengers.

During Thursday's telephone conversation L. Ter-Petrosyan asked G. Aliyev for aid in releasing the train. He promised to despatch to Armenia's border regions his envoys to investigate the crimes committed there and return the captured shepherds together with their herd. G. Aliyev said that if the shepherds and the herd are returned, he'll manage to persuade the residents of Ordubad region to release the train.

Relations With Nakhichevan Viewed

LD1509001391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Armenia's Supreme Soviet supports the democratic reforms taking place in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. This was said by Armenian President Lev Ter-Petosyan during a telephone conversation with Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Majlis of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. The TURAN agency reports: Armenia's leader made a promise to make every effort to prevent conflict situations between the two republics.

Arutyunyan Nomination for President Gets Go-Ahead

PM1309135391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Sep 91 Single Edition p 1

[Report from PRAVDA, TASS, INTERFAX, SNARK roundup under the general headline: "Day's Pulse"]

[Text] The Central Commission for the Election of the President of Armenia has issued an official form to an action group which intends to nominate the candidacy of Suren Arutyunyan, former first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee.

Cooperation Agreement With Krasnoyarskiy Kray

NC1309140391 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] The plenipotentiary delegations of Armenia and Krasnoyarskiy Kray conducted meetings in Yerevan and Krasnoyarsk in August and September during which talks on the development of economic, trade, and cultural ties were held.

A delegation from Krasnoyarskiy Kray lead by Vladimir (?Kuzmin), deputy chairman of the Kray soviet executive committee, is currently visiting Yerevan.

Armenian Council of Ministers Chairman Vazgen Manukyan received the delegation on 12 September.

The sides signed an agreement ratifying their cooperation. The agreement calls for the establishment and broadening of direct economic ties between enterprises and organizations and the exchange of raw materials, and manufactured and consumer goods.

Vardan Amirbekyan, deputy chairman of the Armenian Council of Ministers; Ambardzum Galstyan, chairman of the Yerevan city soviet executive committee; and directors of the large enterprises of Krasnoyarskiy Kray attended the signing ceremony.

Azerbaijan

Rally Against Mutalibov Election Draws 5,000

LD1409232391 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2200 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] There has been a rally in Azerbaijani capital, Baku, in protest against the election of Ayaz Mutalibov as the republic's president.

The rally was called by the Popular Front of Azerbaijan and brought together 5,000 people.

The protesters demanded that the republican parliament should annul the returns from the presidential election in which Mutalibov was the only candidate and suggested holding another presidential and parliamentary election, this time on a contested basis and in the presence of international observers.

Police did not interfere.

Popular Front Rallies in Baku for Democracy

OW1309212391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Thousands of people took part in a rally organized in Baku on Friday night by the republic's pro-democracy forces, among them the Azerbaijani Popular Front.

The rally adopted a resolution expressing the democratic opposition's refusal to open talks with the authorities until the latter meet the following demands:

1. To declare the September 8 presidential elections null and void, and their results rigged;

2. dissolve the republic's Communist Party and nationalize its property;

3. dissolve the Supreme Soviet in its present composition and hold democratic elections under the control of observers from the United Nations and other international organizations;

4. investigate the police clampdown on the opposition rally on August 23, when several people were injured;

5. bring legal charges against those responsible for the clashes.

Participants in the Friday rally called for placing pickets outside the Central Committee of the Azerbaijani Communist Party on Saturday, the opening day of the party's extraordinary congress.

Condemns 'Falsified' Election

LD1309223991 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Sep 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Thousands took part in a rally organized by the Azerbaijani Popular Front in Baku's central square today.

A statement issued by the Popular Front condemned the holding of the democratic [as heard] and falsified election for president. The statement also says: "We will be forced to call the Azerbaijani people to the last and decisive battle with these authorities."

Geysar Khalilov, chairman of the Azerbaijan Television and Radio Company, was released from his post today by a decree by President Mutalibov. The opposition had demanded Khalilov's resignation as far back as a year ago.

That was not the only cadre change today. Vadim Guseynov, chairman of the republic's KGB, was fired this morning. Appointed in his place was his first deputy (Gusayn Fuligusayn).

The Azerbaijan Communist Party congress opening is planned for tomorrow where, as Azerbaijan-Video reports, the quesiton of its final liquidation may be resolved.

Front Leader Calls for Independence Recognition

NC1309072791 Istanbul TURKIYE in Turkish 10 Sep 91 p 11

[Report by Murat Arvas]

[Text] Baku—In an exclusive statement to our paper, Ebulfez Ali Elcibey [Ebulfez Aliyev], leader of the Azerbaijan People's Front, has said: "Azerbaijan's independence certainly must be recognized." Elcibey indicated that in his previous message he only meant that the present regime should not be recognized. He said: "In fact, we want the reinstatement and the recognition of the Azerbaijani Republic—with all its lands, norms and alphabet wrested from us—which was established between 1918 and 1920."

Elcibey said the Communist Party administration destroyed the country during the last 70 years. He said the Communists were criminals and that the Communist Party administration should be brought to account. He pointed out that the Communist regime persecutes the people on the one hand, and on the other tries to deceive the people by claiming to have declared independence. He added: "We do not want you to fall into the trap of the West and recognize this present blood-stained regime. What we wanted was for Communist President Mutalibov to be given the same treatment as Saddam Husayn, who everywhere is condemned as a dictator although Iraq is still recognized as a state. I did not say do not recognize the independence of Azerbaijan."

Elcibey said that in the near future the Communist Party will change its name and will continue to hold to power under a new name.

Communist Party Announces Disbandment

LD1409152891 Moscow TASS in English 1446 GMT 14 Sep 91

[By AZERINFORM-TASS correspondents Aflatyn Amashov and Gekkhekkhanum Tagiyeva]

[Text] Baku September 14 TASS—The 33rd extraordinary congress of the Azerbaijani Communist Party, held today, was the shortest in its history. After a four-hour discussion it was decided by an absolute majority of votes that the republican party organisation will be self-disbanded. Buildings and other property of the Communist Party will be put at the disposal of the local Councils of People's Deputies. The congress requested the president of the republic to help former party functionaries to find employment.

Defense Minister Welcomes Self-Defense Force

OW1409014591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1245 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Defense Minister of Azerbaijan, Lt.-Gen. Valeg Barshatliy, has welcomed the formation of a national self-defense force in the republic. According to the Armenian news agency SNARK, the general said the force would get weapons and hardware from the Center. He said Azerbaijani officers serving in the Soviet Army should return to Azerbaijan.

Gen. Barshatliy expects Armenia to respond to Azerbaijan's decision by launching vigorous military actions. He called on people in the border districts "to be ready" for such a course of developments.

According to V. Barshatliy, Azerbaiian's self-defense force will adhere to a "defensive" military doctrine.

Railway Blockade of Nakhichevan Begins 12 Sep

LD1309203391 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Sep 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The neighboring republic has adopted tried and tested means in reply to the exacerbation of the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijan border. Train traffic from the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic was halted at 2100 yesterday. Let me remind you that there have been no trains from the Kazakhskiy rayon of Azerbaijan for 17 days now. So, another blockade of the railroads has begun. That means that fuel, grain, sugar, and dairy products, the acute shortage of which is making itself felt already now, will not be delivered to Armenia. Industrial goods, parts, and agricultural produce will not be delivered from Armenia to Russia, the Ukraine, and other republics. This means that another severe winter awaits us, with unheated classrooms and hospitals where children freeze.

Nakhichevan Supreme Soviet Presidium Meets

NC1509080191 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] The Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium has held a meeting to examine the situation in the autonomous republic's border. Mamedov, the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic's minister of internal affairs, has said that armed Armenians have driven away 1,200 cattle in an area near the Armenian border in Ordubadskiy Rayon. A militia group has been sent to the scene of the incident, but we still have not received any information on the fate of two herdsmen, Khalilov and Dzhafarov. Meanwhile, the Armenian ministry of internal affairs has announced that 1,000 cattle were discovered yesterday in Kafanskiy Rayon.

Additional reinforcements have been dispatched to the town of Sadar in Shakhbuz Rayon, which was fired on yesterday.

In another incident, armed Armenians drove more than 250 sheep away from an area close to Yukhary (?Bremeshin) town. At its meeting, the Presidium outlined the measures to be taken to normalize the situation, and efforts are being made to have the cattle and sheep returned.

It has been reported that Allakhberdiyev, a Soviet Army soldier from Sheki Rayon who arrived in Yerevan accidentally some time ago, has been brought to Nakhichevan as a result of talks that were held between the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic and the Armenian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The Presidium also examined possibilities for providing food supplies to the autonomous republic's people and ways of organizing the work of the trade establishments. The meeting's participants discussed the fuel shortage, which has recently become more serious, and noted that it has disrupted work in many establishments during the harvest season. The meeting emphasized the need to use [word indistinct] more productively and strengthen work discipline in every area.

The Presidium also examined the concrete measures that will be taken to speed up the construction of the Nakhichevan airport and the motorway between Sadarak and Turkey, among other issues.

Protests Communist Party Activity

OW1409183591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The presidium of the parliament of the Nakhichevan autonomous republic expressed protest against the continued activity of Azerbaijan's Communist party in the autonomy.

Its statement was prompted by "secret letters" sent from the central committee of Azerbaijan's Communist Party to the party committees of the Nakhichevan city, region and other areas. The letters gave instructions to hold party conferences for the purpose of electing delegates to the extraordinary party congress scheduled for September 14.

The presidium reaffirmed the parliament's resolution of August 26, 1991, which banned the activity of all Azeri Communist Party organizations in the autonomous republic and abolished all structures of the regional party organization.

Joint Production Venture With Turkey Established

NC1509073291 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] The number of joint establishments in Baku are increasing, and another Soviet-Turkish joint venture, Azerturk, has been set up. The new establishment will produce china and other consumer goods made of crystal [billur]. Azerturk's products will be of the highest quality and appearance due to the modern equipment and technology that the Turkish partner plans to transfer to Baku. In return, the Turkish partner will receive its predetermined share of the establishment's finished products.

The Shusha plastic factory will also benefit from Azerturk's production, including the foreign exchange that it earns, because the joint establishment has been set up in cooperation with this factory, which has placed its production fields and work force at Azerturk's disposal.

According to leading officials involved in the joint venture, work will begin in early 1992, but we do not yet know when we will be able to see these eagerly awaited products on the market.

Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast

Interior Minister Briefs Press on Situation

LD1409194391 Moscow TASS in English 1758 GMT 14 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan September 14 TASS—Acting Interior Minister of Armenia Ashot Manucharyan believes that Azerbaijan "softened a little its stand on the Nagorno-Karabakh [NKAO] problem" and seeks "to find a political solution to the problem, even if it is just a demonstration." He made this statement at a press conference here today.

Manucharyan said that a process aimed at creating new structures is developing in the system of the Soviet Interior Ministry. He pointed out in this connection that, in his opinion, it is necessary to create a force in the Soviet Union which would play a restraining and disengaging role in inter-ethnic conflicts.

He described the situation with law and order in Armenia as unsatisfactory and pointed to the "wild" attitude to the law shown by many residents of the Republic. He explained it by the ineffective performance of state structures and the imperfection of the legislation. The efforts of the law enforcement agencies alone are not enough to improve this situation. Manucharyan believes that this can be achieved through joint efforts of the public and all political forces.

Internal Troops Militia Regiment To Leave

LD1309202391 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 0700 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] A URALAKTSEPT correspondent has been informed by reliable sources that from 15 to 20 September, in connection with the planned withdrawal of troops from Nagorno-Karabakh, the return to Sverdlovsk is expected of a special regiment of internal troops militia, which was dispatched to the conflict zone in June 1991. Owing to no personnel losses, 250 soldiers are coming home. They will once again carry out their duties on the streets of their home area.

Moscow Soviet Deputies Detained in Village

LD1509133891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1230 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] The fate of two Moscow Soviet deputies, Vera Khudaleyeva and Dmitriy Katayev, remains unknown. They were detained in a village of the Shaumyanovskiy rayon of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO]. The chairman of the local soviet told them that members of the Azerbaijan OMON [special militia] would shoot them. A third hostage, Lev Balashov, escaped under cover of darkness.

Armenian Casualty Figures Reported

OW1409002091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 100 Armenians have been killed and 180 injured in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding Azerbaijani areas since 1st January, 1991. These figures were given by Seiran Bagdasaryan, the President of the Armenian Supreme Soviet's Commission for the Nagorno-Karabakh question.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Invites Republic Leaders for Talks

LD1409105191 Moscow TASS in English 1027 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Alma-Ata September 14 TASS—President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan on Friday sent a message to the leaders of all sovereign republics, inviting them to attend the launch of a spaceship with a Soviet-Austrian crew on board. There will be a representative of Kazakhstan among crew members.

Nazarabayev pointed out the possibility of "availing ourselves of the meeting to discuss problems that are of vital importance to our sovereign states".

In the judgement of the president of Kazakhstan, it is important that a common stand be worked out during the meeting on the following matters:

"Principles for the formation of inter-state economic agreements and treaties for 1992,

"the coordination of principles for a free movement of goods between our states,

"approaches to the pricing policy with due regard for the interests of our states and the normalisation of money circulation under the conditions of introduction of national currencies.

"On your proposal, it would be also possible to discuss other matters of mutual interest."

"I will be gratified to meet you in Alma-Ata on September 30, to hold meeting on October 1 and together with you watch the spaceship's lift-off on October 2," the message says.

Invites Leaders to Baykonur Launch

LD1509034891 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev has invited leaders of the sovereign republics to attend the launch of the spacecraft carrying a Soviet-Austrian crew, which is scheduled for 2 October. The message says that a remarkable event is to take place in the history of Kazakhstan. For the first time in the 40 years of the existence of the Baykonur Cosmodrome on the territory of the republic, a Kazakh cosmonaut is to be launched. President Nazarbayev deems it possible to use this meeting to discuss problems of great importance. During the period of transition to the market economy, he believes, it is necessary to coordinate positions on forming interstate economic agreements and treaties for next year, on free movement of goods between states, on approaches to price policy taking into account common interests, and on normalization of the turnover of money under conditions of the introduction of national currencies. Nazarbayev proposes to meet the guests on 30 September, to hold a meeting on 1 October, and to attend the launch on 2 October.

President Issues Decree on Military Service

LD1309163891 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev issued a decree today on call-up for military service, which makes it possible to implement the sovereign rights of the republic on matters of military construction and ensure the lawful rights of citizens. From today, Kazakhstan's military comissariat will fully staff its internal troops with citizens of the republic. Moreover, sending conscripts to military-construction detachments, and internal troops, beyond the boundaries of the republic is excluded.

Regulations Detailed

LD1309192891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1225 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Konstantin Borodinov]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 13 Sep (TASS)—The decree issued today by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev is aimed at implementing the sovereign rights of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] regarding military construction and toward guaranteeing the legal rights of citizens called up for service from the republic.

According to this document, the military commissariat of the Kazakh SSR has the status of a republican body and the oblast military commissariats are subordinate to it. The internal forces of the republic will be recruited by it from those citizens called up for active military service. This is excluding those recruits sent to do military construction work or to serve in the internal forces beyond the borders of the Kazakh SSR.

By the resolution of the president of Kazakhstan, many citizens of call-up age from families that have lost a member of their family while serving in peace-time are exempt from active military service. Deferrals are also available to the only sons of single mothers, to shepherds on sovkhozes, kolkhozes, and other agricultural institutions for the entire period that they work in that profession, and also to full-time students at higher education establishments.

Conversion of Semipalatinsk Test Site Reported

PM1309143991 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1530 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Report by G. Sytykh, identified by caption; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Range has been closed down by a Kazakh presidential decree. Our correspondent reports.

[Sytykh] This iron cannon was once the most frightening weapon in Semipalatinsk. It stood guard over the fortress gates. But in our day and age something somewhat more frightening was created in Semipalatinsk. Just look at this—a nuclear blast caused this piece of granite to fuse into slag. We're in Kurchatov—a town where testing personnel live. These laboratories will now be working on civilian programs. It has been decided to turn the test range into a union-republic scientific research center. Tremendous scientific potential has been built up here. And it finds the most varied applications. One area they are working on is in helping to design earthquake-proof buildings. The end of nuclear testing marks the start of a great deal of work. The time has come to eradicate the harmful consequences of these dangerous experiments. [Video shows K. Boztayev, oblast soviet chairman, identified by caption]

[Boztayev] We need to improve the population's health. It's a big problem and we'll have to get help from our state to do it.

National Democrats Opposed to Cossack Holiday

OW1309234791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On September 12 a number of Kazakh political parties and movements, including the civil movement Azat, the National Democratic Party of Kazakhstan Zholtokstan, and the National Revival Centre Zangeru expressed protest against the holiday of the Urals Cossacks under the slogan "400 Years of Service to the Tsar and the Country", planned to be held in the city of Uralsk on September 17. A joint statement of the organizations describes the holding of this "unnatural holiday" as "humiliation of and insult to the Kazakh nation."

The leaders of the republican national-democratic organisations warned the Kazakh leadership of possible "countermeasures" to the Cossack holiday to "prevent provocateur actions by the Cossack toughs."

Kyrgyzstan

Sales Tax on Hard-Pressed Publications Abolished

PM1309121191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Aleksandr Ryabushkin report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Newspapers' 5-Percent Tax Removed"]

[Text] Bishkek—The Kyrgyz Government has ordered the 5-percent sales tax to be abolished for all publications and goods sold by communications and Main Administration for the Distribution of Printed Matter enterprises on subscription and via retail.

That may have been all the local leadership could do to somehow help the population with the 1992 subscription. But the latter has already begun and is not proceeding with any great vigor. The reason being that prices have gone up. Things are better with retail sales. Virtually all the central publications are bought up in the mornings. As of September sales of IZVESTIYA have risen by almost 10 percent at the republic's kiosks.

Tajikistan

Independence Not Exclusive of Joining Union

LD1409170891 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Aslonov, chairman of the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet, addressed the people of the republic on television. He stated that Tajikistan will develop from now on to become a democratic rule-of-law state. In his words, obtaining independence does not mean refusing inclusion in the new union of sovereign states.

Youth Paper Previews Presidential Race

PM1309115991 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Sep 91 p 1

[Report by U. Babakhanov and A. Lukin: "Only Thirty-Four? Not Old Enough"]

[Text] The Tajik parliament was in emergency session for six days, and throughout those six days the sound of thousands of people rallying on Freedom (formerly Lenin) Square was to be heard beneath its windows. The people on the square were trying to intimidate the parliament and present their own demands. Parliament pretended to be unafraid, but it did carry out 16 of their 17 demands. Only the question of suspending Communist Party activity remains open.

The Tajik presidential election is set for 27 October. It can be forecast that the election contest in the republic will not be among political forces but between the North and the South. A stalemate is perfectly possible—both regions could block the "other's" candidates. An attempt is being made to find a compromise before the election: The session decided to establish the post of vice president, which it had deemed unnecessary a few months ago. It is clear that candidates for the presidency and vice presidency will run on a joint North-South ticket.

The new election regulation has no upper age limit (previously the age qualification was 35 to 65), and this will enable the former Communist Party Central Committee first secretary to run for the presidency. The opposition—the "Rastokhez" People's Movement Democratic Party and the Islamic Party—could form a united front. Likely opposition contenders include USSR Peoples' Deputy D. Khudonazarov, Tajik People's Deputy S. Kendzhayev, and O. Latifi, correspondent of the weekly SOYUZ, who adroitly seized on the language used by former President Makhkamov during the putsch. Despite widespread popular support B. Karimov, former chairman of the State Planning Committee, accused of organizing the tragic events in Dushanbe in February 1990, will not be able to run for president—he is only 34.

Uzbekistan

Akhmedov Appointed New Defense Minister

OW1309234691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Uzbek President Islam Karimov signed decrees on new appointments in republican government. Rustam Akhmedov [spelling as received], previously civil defense deputy chief in Tashkent region, was appointed defense minister.

Extraordinary Communist Party Congress Opens

LD1409123891 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] the extraordinary congress of the Uzbekistan Communist Party has started in Tashkent. As TASS reports, issues relating to the activities of the Communist Party as an independent political organization are to be examined. Several proposals about the renaming of the party have been submitted to the delegates.

New Democratic Party Created

LD1409220991

[Editorial Report] Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian at 1530 GMT on 14 September, in its "Vremya" newscast, broadcasts a 3-minute report by correspondent Sh. Ganiyeva on the 23d extraordinary congress of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan which took place in Tashkent today.

She says: "Islam Karimov, president of the republic and first secretary of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan Central Committee, delivered a report at the session on the socio-political situation and the tasks of the party organisations of the republic. He confirmed that the Communist Party of Uzbekistan has left the CPSU and all its organizational structures.

"Let me remind you that this occurred in the first days after the state coup which was provoked by the acute crisis of power in the CPSU. However, it is quite obvious that the Communist Party of Uzbekistan cannot operate in its present form either. The Congress considered it necessary to create a new political organization on the basis of the present Republican Communist Party—the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan [Narodnaya Demokraticheskaya Partiya Uzbekistana]. How do Communists see it? "

The video shows delegates at the session with Karimov addressing them from the rostrum and the media filming the event.

The correspondent then interviews Kh. M. Abduraimov, secretary of the Tashkent City Party Committee, who says:

"It should be democratic in content, internationalist, and, of course, should be guided by the interests of the people. That is probably the main thing." He goes on to say that in his view, the Party cannot be renewed without changing theoretical principles and its approach to many fundamental issues, such as, for instance, to class approaches and the theory of interethnic relations.

Ganiyeva continues: "At the Congress an organizational committee for the convocation of the constituent congress and a commission for preparing the program and rules of the new Party were organized. Meanwhile, all the structures of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan will continue their activity."

She then interviews B. Kariyeva, USSR people's deputy, on her view on this. Kariyeva says:

"New people must create the new party. Nonetheless, the structures which remain already have a Communist basis. That is the Party apparatus, that is people who have spent their whole lives in the Communist Party. Therefore, it is difficult to give them the opportunity to think of a new Party now."

More on Democratic Party

OW1409173591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The successor of Uzbekistan's Communist party will be People's Democratic party. This decision was taken by the party's extraordinary congress held in Tashkent. The congress decided to form an organizing committee to prepare the founding congress. Before the new party is formed organizationally, before its program and rules are adopted, the present party structures will be maintained.

It was also decided to suggest that Uzbekistan's parliament should adopt a bill on protecting the constitutional rights, honour and dignity of Communists and on preserving the special pensions of party veterans for their services to the people.

Delegates to the extraordinary congress adopted a statement which says that members of Uzbekistan's Communist party are not responsible for the negative consequences of the policy followed on behalf of the CPSU by its former leadership.

Communists Assert 'Determining Principles'

PM1309120991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
12 Sep 91 Single Edition p 2

[A. Kaipbergenov report: "Congress Will Decide"]

[Text] Tashkent—Extraordinary conferences have been held over the past days in the Karakalpak Republic organization, oblast organizations, and Tashkent City organization of the Uzbek Communist Party and have elected delegates to the extraordinary, 23d congress of the republic's Communists.

To judge from the sentiments, a desire to preserve the party as a major, organized political force prevails in the republic organization. The determining principles of the renewed party must be internationalism, social justice, protection for the needy and weak, and equality and cooperation in relations with other burgeoning parties and public associations and movements.

KGB Monument Disappears From Headquarters

OW1309214991 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1900 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The monument to Felix Dzershinskiy disappeared last night from its pedestal outside the republican KGB headquarters in Tashkent. As has become known, the decision to dismantle it had been taken by the city leaders.

The undamaged monument was taken to the grounds of the local sculpture factory to lay the basis for "an alley of Soviet monumental art," as the city's chief artist Rafael Yusupov believes. According to him, on display there will be sculptures "no longer relevant politically but still valuable as pieces of art."

IF's [INTERFAX] reporter has learned at the Uzbekistani KGB's press center that the dismantlement project was not coordinated with the KGB staff.